

# Labour faces day of confusion at conference

On the eve of the special Labour Party conference to decide a new method of electing the leader, there were firm reports last night that dissident MPs may form a social democratic grouping within the parliamentary party as a first step towards a breakaway. The conference faces about 50 amendments and some MPs fear that the proceedings may be chaotic.

## Dissident MPs set to form new grouping

By Fred Emery and George Clark  
The special Labour Party conference at Wembley today called to decide a method of choosing its leader, is expected to be chaotic, and that it will serve to open wounds rather than heal them.

Mr William Rodgers, MP for Teesside, Stockton, who, with Dr David Owen, MP for Plymouth, Devonport, and Mrs Shirley Williams, are threatening to lead a breakaway movement, said that the conference could be another nail in Labour's coffin.

Mr Rodgers said: "I think voters will be saying that the Labour Party is near the end of its useful life as the alternative to Conservatism."

Like Dr Owen, Mr Rodgers has argued forcefully for the election of the leader to be left in the hands of the Parliamentary Labour Party, which has to support the leader with their votes in the Commons.

Mr Rodgers was asked in the BBC programme today about the prospects of Labour MPs leaving and joining a new social democratic alliance. He said: "The prospects electorally would be good. Of course, it would be a major risk. It would be a shot in the dark."

Last night it was clear that Mr Rodgers, Dr Owen, Mrs Williams and Mr Roy Jenkins will meet tonight after the conference to plan future action. And while no decisions have yet been taken, there has been discussion of a plan to set up a new social democratic group within the Parliamentary Labour Party.

This would hardly be the protest some right-wingers have been talking about. The group would be on the same footing as the left-wing Tribune Group, and the centre-right Manifesto Group, and propagating their ideas as the other groups do.

The conference has to act down to decision by 5.30 pm. No one can vote against anything, only in favour or abstain. The only time a vote may be possible will be the last vote of the day, on the final proposal, when all the others have been eliminated—assuming they get that far.

## Mr Benn vows fight to the finish

By Our Political Correspondent  
At a Westminster rally last night organized by the Rank and File Mobilizing Committee for Labour Party Democracy, several speakers accepted the possibility that today's conference could end inconclusively.

Miss Joan Maynard, MP for Sheffield, Brightside, said there would be ample opportunity for people to filibuster and cause confusion because the agenda was so complicated.

Mr Wedgwood Benn, MP for Bristol, South East, one of the leading campaigners for the electoral college idea, said that even though the conference might end inconclusively, "we will go on until we win, however long it takes."

He condemned those Labour MPs who were talking about joining a centre party as being people who wanted to see the defeat of Labour at the next election.

Their moves, he said, had received full support from the mass media. "I shall not say much about the Press because most of us know their role, and we must brace ourselves for

## Unions' plea to Mr Foot on sale of 'The Times'

By Our Labour Staff  
Three printing union leaders are writing to Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, urging him not to pursue a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission of the proposed sale of Times Newspapers to Mr Rupert Murdoch.

The letter, which is expected to reach Mr Foot on Monday, will be signed by Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the National Graphical Association, Mr William Keys, general secretary of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, and Mr Owen O'Brien, general secretary of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel.

It will say that the three leaders understand and appreciate the importance of the future of editorial independence of The Times, The Sunday Times, and the three supplements, but that they fear that the opportunity to save the papers may be lost if a reference is pursued.

However, resolutions passed at separate meetings of The Times and The Sunday Times chapters of the National Union of Journalists yesterday urged a reference to the Monopolies Commission of the newspapers' proposed sale to Mr Murdoch.

Clash in Commons: Pressure was building up at Westminster yesterday, mainly on the Labour side of the Commons, for the purchase to be referred to the Monopolies Commission (our Parliamentary Correspondent writes).

On the Conservative benches, with some exceptions, there was less enthusiasm for a reference, particularly in the view of Mr Murdoch's press conference reply on Thursday that it would extend beyond the three weeks within which agreement with staff and unions must be reached. If that happened, there would be continuing negotiations, he said.

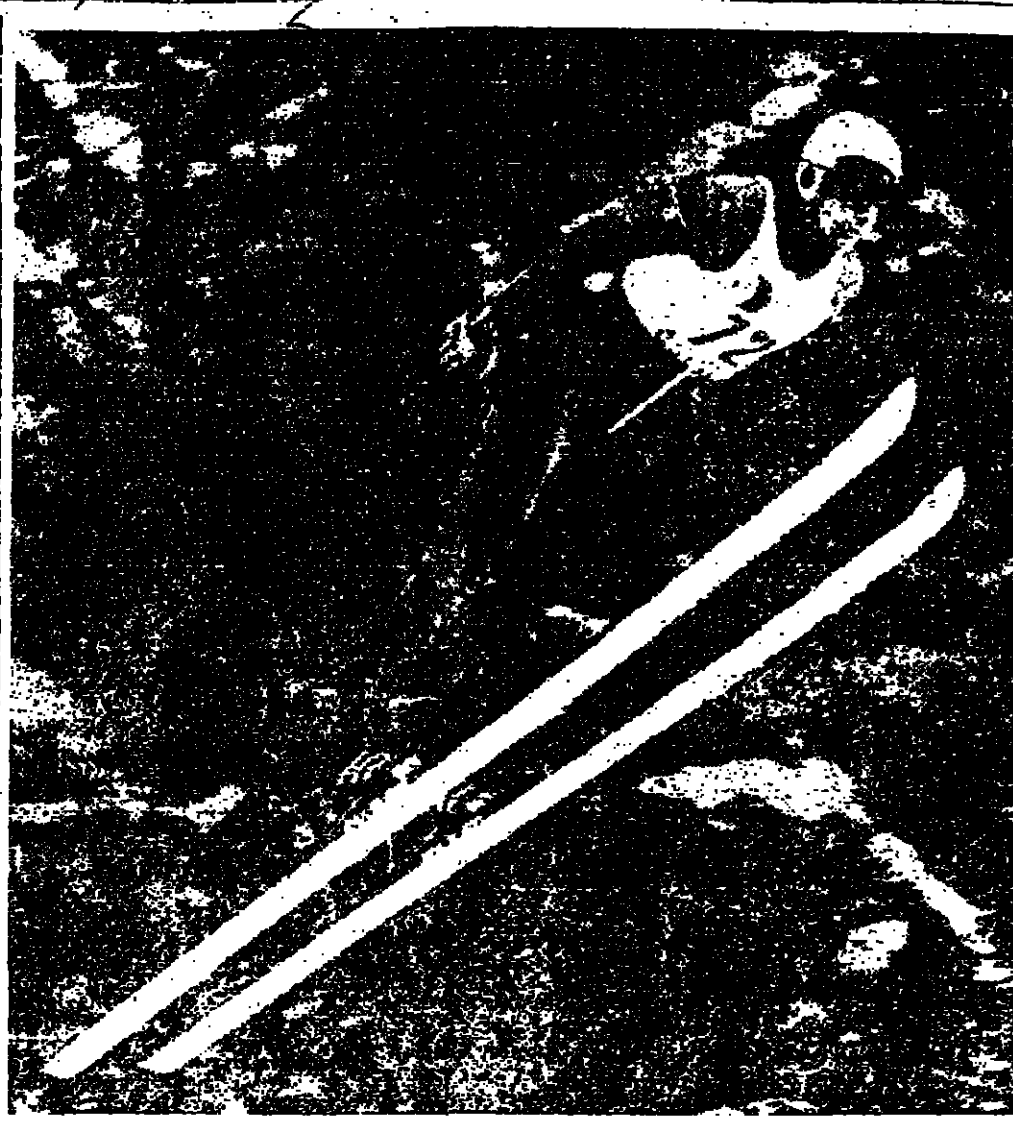
But Mr Murdoch's words clearly were having little effect on Labour MPs. Mr Foot was in his place on the front bench to reinforce the demand made to the Government by Mr John Smith, Opposition spokesman on trade union matters, that the death sentence to life imprisonment must be referred to the commission.

With Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, not returning from a conference in India until last night, it was Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, who answered the private notice question. She told MPs that the Department of Trade had not yet received a formal application for consent to the transfer of ownership of The Times and The Sunday Times. When that was received it would be considered by the secretary of state, who would decide whether the transfer should be referred to the commission.

Surrounded by Labour MPs in a considerable force, Mr Smith told Mrs Oppenheim that all the facts were speedily becoming known. The proposed purchase would create one of the greatest concentrations of newspaper power in the history of journalism in the United Kingdom.

It was unthinkable, he said, that in these circumstances the secretary of state could conceive it to be his duty not to refer the matter for public consideration.

Continued on page 2, col 4



Mid-air elegance: Johan Saetre, of Norway, skiing to victory at Gstaad, Switzerland, in one of the World Cup ski-jumping events.

## S Korea spares life of opposition leader

From Jacqueline Reditt, Seoul, Jan 23  
The life of the South Korean dissident, Mr Kim Dae Jung, was spared today in a carefully contrived political volte face.

The civilian Supreme Court took 12 minutes to reject an appeal by Mr Kim's lawyers against a death sentence. But one hour later, President Chun Doo Hwan was telling his Cabinet ministers to consider commuting the death sentence to life imprisonment.

The President had found a clever formula for sparing the life of the man the military hierarchy consider South Korea's enemy number two: number one being the North Korean leader, Mr Kim Il Sung. It was designed to erase foreign criticism of Mr Chun's civil rights record and show him to the Korean electorate as a man of mercy without causing him to lose face by appearing to yield to foreign, particularly Japanese, pressure.

Mr Chun was also careful not to undermine the authority of the military court, which originally imposed the death sentence, by having the civilian Supreme Court endorse its verdict.

But the President told his Cabinet that an execution would "besmirch the opening chapters of the fifth republic with a nightmare from the past."

He described the Kim Dae Jung affair as a sad political legacy from the old era. Now the time had come for a new historical era which would put an end to the confrontation-dominated political situation of the 1970s.

President Chun's decision to commute Mr Kim's sentence means he can now go to Washington next week for a meeting with President Reagan knowing that this issue, which has strained Korean-American relations in the past months, has been satisfactorily dealt with.

For 55-year-old Mr Kim, it appears the end of the stormy political road he has travelled since entering Parliament two decades ago with a mildly socialist policy, determined to oust his country from a succession of right-wing regimes.

The decision to commute the death sentence and to reduce the prison terms of Mr Kim's co-defendants by between three to five years, has already provoked a favourable reaction in Japan, where Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Prime Minister, said he would be pleased to receive President Chun in Tokyo at any time.



Kim Dae Jung: Failure to remove right-wing regimes.

## All 52 hostages to be flown home tomorrow for family reunions

From Patricia Clough, Wiesbaden, Jan 23  
Some of the 52 former American hostages are suffering temporary psychiatric conditions caused by their 444 days in captivity in Iran, the head of their medical team said today. But the group will be able to return to the United States on Sunday to be reunited with their families.

Today they were driven to a PX, the shop for American armed forces, where they spent a total of \$15,000 (\$5,250) on clothing, watches and cameras. The 50 men and two women left Iran with few possessions. Some kicked off the sandals they wore on the flight and walked away in new shoes.

Dr Jerome Korcak, head of the medical team, said some of the 52 were showing a stress reaction to their ordeal. Also, some had depression so badly that they were unable to leave their rooms.

The problems, included disturbed sleep and bad memories brought to mind by such ordinary events as the slamming of a door.

But he said these conditions were amenable to treatment and he was sure that the former hostages had not been permanently disabled by their experiences. Group therapy and, in some cases, individual treatment, was beginning tonight and would continue after their return home.

The degree of psychiatric disturbance among the hostages varied widely and bore no relation to the amount of maltreatment received, or to their age or status. It had more to do with the individual's personality, religion and sense of patriotism, he said.

Dr Korcak said that he and his colleagues had found a number of physical ailments, many of which had existed before captivity. There were no mutilations or fractures but there had been some chronic sprains. The former hostages bore no traces of beating which had been done in a way that did not leave marks on the skin.

One patient complained of a ringing in the ears since he was kicked into unconsciousness. All had experienced weight loss ranging from 10lb to 18lb. Some hostages had spoken of being strapped up and thrown "like sacks of garbage" into a lorry and driven out of Tehran after the abortive rescue attempt.

Higher-ranking hostages had been treated more harshly than the others, Dr Korcak said. Taken to the military college at West Point to meet their families, and to stay in seclusion there for two days.

Meanwhile the State Department continues to stand on its declaration that the new Administration fully intends to carry out the terms of the agreements concluded with Iran in the waning hours of the Carter Administration.

Mr Edward Hees, President Reagan's principal White House assistant, said that a review of the terms was being conducted and would be finished by the end of next week.

There is a problem over the President's right to order an ending of law suits being brought against Iran by American citizens. A federal judge has ruled that the right applies to only one category of suits.

Tehran response, page 4

## Biggest union in water industry backs strike

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor  
A national water strike was sanctioned last night by leaders of the largest union in the industry after an overwhelming rank-and-file rejection of the employers' "final" 7.9 per cent pay offer.

The national executive of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, which represents about two thirds of the 33,000 water workers, voted to empower Mr David Bassett, the union's general secretary, to coordinate industrial action with the other three unions in the industry in joint talks on February 3.

The union's leaders condemned the National Water

## Court rules suspension of prisons action unlawful

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent  
The leadership of the Prison Officers' Association acted unlawfully in instructing members to suspend industrial action without convening a special delegate conference, the High Court ruled yesterday.

Mr Justice Browne-Wilkinson ordered the association's national executive committee to send a letter to members rescinding its instruction of January 13 and reinstating industrial action imposed on October 2.

But he suspended his order for up to six weeks to allow the national executive committee to reconvene the special conference which had voted for industrial action. That will enable the conference to decide what steps to take over Home Office proposals to settle the dispute.

Yesterday's application for an injunction was brought by Mr Malcolm Thomas, secretary of the Ashford branch in Surrey.

Mr Thomas said: "Because of what the judge said, it is unlikely that we shall be seeking to resume industrial action in the meantime."

The judge ruled that in calling off the industrial action the national executive breached union rules.

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## Shipbuilders seek 3,200 redundancies

British Shipbuilders is seeking 3,200 voluntary redundancies within the next month. The state shipbuilding corporation, announcing the cut-back, implied that if enough volunteers were not found compulsory redundancies would follow. The worst affected will be Vosper ship repairers in Southampton, where the entire 1,100 workforce is at risk after the British Transport Docks Board decision to close the two ship repair docks used by Vosper. The cutbacks are said to be crucial to the future of British Shipbuilders. Page 17

## Soviet grain harvest falls below target

The Russians announced that last year's grain harvest was 199.2 million tonnes, 45.8 million below the target but better than preliminary estimates. As in 1979 the harvest is disappointing and it will be difficult to build up herds and increase meat production. Page 4

## £35m error in RAF conversion estimate

The estimated cost of buying nine VC10 airliners and converting them into RAF tankers for air-to-air refuelling soared from £44m to £79m because the Ministry of Defence did not fully assess the work involved, a committee report says. It is one of three examples of poor cost estimating that has bedevilled ministry projects. Page 3

## Mr Reagan gets tax cuts package ready

President Reagan hopes to announce a 10 per cent cut in personal income tax in an economic package that he will soon present to Congress. Large cuts in federal spending are also planned. Page 4

## Burgomaster elected

Dr Hans-Jochen Vogel, who resigned as Federal Minister of Justice after his nomination, has been elected Chief Burgomaster of Berlin. The vote ensures the continuation of the position government in the city for the time being. Elections will take place, however, possibly as early as June 17. Page 3

## Heathrow disrupted

Flights from Heathrow airport were severely disrupted by a 24-hour strike by 20,000 British Airways ground staff. At least 30,000 passengers had to be found other seats as only the airline's 380 flights were cancelled. The unions have given a warning that there may be further stoppages. Page 3

## Maze dispute worse

The dispute at the Maze prison near Belfast over prison clothing and food was said to have worsened as the Northern Ireland Office issued a detailed defence of its position after refusing to let relatives of 10 prisoners deliver bundles of socks and underwear for the men. Page 2

## Century for Gower

David Gower scored an unbeaten 154 when England began their cricket tour of the West Indies against a President's XI at Pointe-a-Pierre. England ended the first day on 329 for two, Boycott having contributed 87. Page 16

## Cambridge dispute: Undergraduates in the English faculty called for a discussion on its approach to academic freedom

Fewer students: Universities are being asked to cut intake in the autumn. Page 3

## Spain: Communists have lost their prominent position in trade unions with considerable advances made by the Socialist organization in national elections

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Six Labour views of the special conference today

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Richard Williams talks to Steve Winwood; David Wade on the week's radio

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time and whose two-year term was over.

In many factories it proved difficult to find candidates let alone voters. The unemployment crisis meant that workers were less willing to come forward and fight the elections, thus perhaps coming to the management's notice.

In the Basque region the regionalist trade union (ELA-STV) proved itself an effective force. In Guipuzcoa and Bilbao provinces it came well ahead of both the Communists and Socialists.

A third union force, the Workers' Trade Union, which originally advocated a unionism based on workers' self-government but later switched to being a third force favoured by the Government, more than doubled its national vote, from 0.17 per cent in 1936 to only 0.17 per cent of the delegates elected. It failed to pass the 10 per cent mark required for it to be recognized, along with the two main unions, as a negotiating partner in all national wage agreements.



## OVERSEAS

## Reagan team prepares economic package to cut public spending

From Patrick Brogan  
Washington, Jan 23

President Reagan and his economic advisers are working on a package of economic measures that will be presented to the nation and Congress shortly. Mr Reagan hopes to be able to announce a 10 per cent cut in personal income tax and immediate and very large cuts in federal spending.

Three senior officials who have Cabinet rank but who are not members of that body—Mr David Stockman, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Mr James A. Baker, the Secretary of the Treasury, and Mr William Casey, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency—will be confirmed by the Senate next week.

As the new officials settle into their jobs, they are looking for ways to save money quickly—and ways to stop the growth of the budget.

Mr Reagan had breakfast this morning with the Republican congressional leaders who will be most closely involved in the exercise. Mr Jim Jones, a Democratic congressman from Oklahoma who saw the President yesterday, said afterwards that Mr Reagan would go on television to announce his package, but was having difficulty in putting it together.

That was rather a statement of the obvious. In an interim measure announced yesterday, Mr Reagan ordered a 15 per cent reduction in travel by federal employees and a 5 per cent reduction in the sums spent on outside consultancy firms. This should mean a saving of \$500m (£208m) in the first year.

All the members of the Cabinet have been confirmed by the Senate except for Mr Ray Donovan, the nominated Secretary of Labour.

The new Secretaries have all now been sworn in and have taken up their duties. They

will now be able to choose their deputies and complete the formation of the new Government. Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, has already run into trouble with the right-wing in Congress.

Senator Jesse Helms, the leading conservative Republican, who voted against the confirmation of Mr Caspar Weinberger, Secretary of Defence, is worried that Mr Haig is not choosing sufficiently hawkish deputies.

Among the appointments that are expected to be announced soon are Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, as Assistant Secretary for European Affairs. He is a diplomat who worked closely with Dr Henry Kissinger and is therefore an object of Senator Helms's suspicions.

Mr Helms is also opposed to the appointment of Mr Frank Carlucci to be Deputy Secretary of Defence. Mr Carlucci is a distinguished diplomat who has served himself as Ambassador to Portugal during the upheavals there by dissuading Dr Kissinger from intervening.

When Mr Haig arrived at the State Department yesterday afternoon, he told his staff that the President had clearly enunciated the doctrine that the foreign policy of the nation would be conducted by the Secretary of State, not the National Security Adviser. That alone disclaimed any ambition to play so prominent a role as Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski or Dr Kissinger, when they held the post.

Judge nominated by Mr Reagan today, Mr Justice William Clark, a judge of the California Supreme Court, as Deputy Secretary of State, and Mr Murray Weidenbaum, a former Nixon Administration official, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Mr Clark, aged 49, was Mr Reagan's Chief of Staff during his first term as Governor of California—UPT.

## Soviet grain harvest falls below target

From Michael Binyon  
Moscow, Jan 23

The Russians today officially announced that the total grain harvest for 1980 was 183.2m tonnes, some 45.8m tonnes below the target set for last year, but a little better than preliminary estimates suggested in the autumn.

The total is 10m tonnes more than the harvest in 1979, but both years are disappointing and will make it doubly difficult for the Russians to build up their herds and increase the output of meat. They have had to import large quantities of feed grain to avoid the slaughter of livestock.

The American grain embargo has meant a search for supplies elsewhere, often at higher market prices. The figures were given in a statistical report of the Soviet economy. Last year's harvest, which also showed that overall agricultural output fell by 3 per cent compared with 1979. Poor weather—too wet in the west of the country and too dry in the east—took its toll on the lower output of meat and milk, and for the failure of sugar beet production to achieve its target.

The only bright spot was the record cotton crop of 9.9m tonnes.

Industrial output rose by 3.6 per cent, but this was still less than the figure planned for 1980, the final year of the previous five-year plan. Oil output fell by 603m tonnes, slightly below the target of 606m tonnes; though the Soviet Union remains the world's largest oil producer. The disappointing figure makes it doubtful whether the Russians can achieve their ambitious target of 620m to 645m tonnes of crude oil and gas condensate in 1985.

The production of natural gas, which has become a vital hard currency earner, was a 35m cubic metres and exceeded the planned total. But coal, at 716m tonnes, was below plan. The Russians are the main oil suppliers for Eastern Europe and are now trying to switch industry from oil back to coal, with an ambitious nuclear power programme.

The full details of the present five-year plan will be revealed during the Communist Party congress next month. Meanwhile there is, ironically, some concern that agriculture this year may suffer because the winter has not been cold enough.

This month has been exceptionally mild throughout the country, with temperatures hovering around zero and melting much of the snow. Western experts say there is still enough snow to protect the winter crops. But in Georgia and Armenia the temperature has risen to around 17°C, some 15°C warmer than usual. Trees and flowers are in blossom already and there are fears that the fruit crop will be damaged if this is followed by frost.

Commodities, page 20

RESTRICTED AREA  
DO NOT ENTER

Former President Jimmy Carter tripping over a curb during a jogging session yesterday in Plains, Georgia. He quickly recovered and resumed his exercising.

## Mr Peres in favour of 'Jordanian option'

By David Spanier  
Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Shimon Peres, leader of the Israeli Labour Party, strongly recommended the "Jordanian option" as the best chance of making progress in the Middle East, in talks with the Palestinians and opposition leaders in London yesterday.

While not opposing the European diplomatic initiative on the Middle East, he made it clear that he considers it to be completely mistaken in trying to associate the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) in any future talks.

As the man most likely to become Prime Minister in the forthcoming Israeli election, according to the latest opinion polls, Mr Peres was heard with particular attention in his talks with Lord Carrington at the Foreign Office yesterday. He was later a visitor at 10 Downing Street when Mrs Thatcher discussed the prospects for peace in the Middle East. He also saw Mr Michael Paret, leader of the Labour Party, and Mr Denis Healey, deputy leader of the Labour Party, at the House of Commons.

Explaining the importance of bringing Jordan into the peace process, Mr Peres said that "the only way to be done in a number of different ways. One was to build on the two countries acceptance of United Nations resolutions on the Middle East, which represented an opening position for negotiations. There was what Dr Kissinger had termed a constructive ambiguity here."

Another approach, he suggested, would be to encourage or permit the Palestinians in the West Bank to start a meaningful negotiation. And thirdly, Mr Peres said he did not exclude the possibility of

starting talks on the basis of economic cooperation, which was a very pressing need for both countries. He was particularly struck with the new importance of the port of Aqaba in the region.

Questioned further, Mr Peres said that he believed that King Hussein was in a position to negotiate with Israel, and that public declarations to the contrary should not be always taken at face value. Each side, he said, should enter such negotiations without prior conditions. But Mr Peres completely excluded the idea of the PLO coming in and said that there was no chance whatever of negotiations on that basis.

Mr Peres said that the PLO was a "broken structure" consisting of five different military organizations reflecting differences within the Arab world, and had become a prisoner of its own convention, totally unable to take decisions in a meaningful way.

"I am not against the European initiative but it went in the wrong direction," he said.

So far as the Israeli settlements policy was concerned, Mr Peres indicated that a future Labour Government would not permit settlements to be built in densely populated Arab areas. But he was not suggesting dismantling existing settlements. All this, he clearly implied, would be up to the Jordanians to raise if they wanted to in future negotiations.

"I believe there is a good season for peace in the Middle East," Mr Peres said "because the parties are becoming worried at the winds of disintegration." He was optimistic, he concluded, and grateful to have been given a fair hearing in London.

## Russian troops join in Polish exercises

From Our Own Correspondent  
Moscow, Jan 23

As Soviet concern rises again over the crisis in Poland, the Russians revealed today that Soviet Army units recently held joint field exercises with Polish infantry in Poland.

Red Star, the Army newspaper, in a report today under a front page picture of troops and tanks in the snow, said several dozen vehicles took part in the exercises, as well as artillery batteries. The paper gave no information when or where the exercises were held, but they appeared to be on a relatively small scale.

The report said the exercises were held in the spirit of "unbreakable military cooperation" and the achievements of socialism in a single monolithic formation.

Meanwhile, as a new wave of strikes engulfed Poland, the Soviet press has repeated warnings that the independent trade union Solidarity is being used by anti-communist forces to undermine the socialist system.

The paper said KOR's leader, looking for support to such figures as Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the West German Opposition leader, and Zbigniew Brzezinski, the former White House security adviser.

The report said the union was trying to complicate matters in Poland, had no interest in restoring things to normal or raising workers' living standards, and was controlled by forces hostile to socialism.

Another report today from Warsaw quoted Polish veterans who fought alongside the Russians in the Second World War calling for the normalisation of the political and economic situation in Poland at a rally. Tass said they condemned the subversive activity of an anti-socialist element which they said was directed against the principles of social justice in the country.

As the labour crisis drags on, the Russians have continued to issue veiled warnings to the Polish party leadership to move against Solidarity, the private farmers and Polish dissidents.

In a long report in the influential weekly *Litwinskiy Gazeta* on Wednesday a commentator savagely attacked the KOR Social Self-Defence Committee.

The paper said KOR's leader looked for support to such figures as Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the West German Opposition leader, and Zbigniew Brzezinski, the former White House security adviser.

## S Africa calls on UN 'to show impartiality'

From Nicholas Ashford  
Johannesburg, Jan 23

Mr Marais Viljoen, the State President, indicated today that South Africa would expect agreement on broad constitutional principles as well as guarantees about United Nations impartiality before going ahead with implementing the United Nations' settlement plan for Namibia (South-West Africa).

In his address at the official opening of the South African Parliament, he stated that a "practical and visible demonstration of the United Nations' impartiality" was a prerequisite to the holding of free and fair elections in the territory.

But the internal political parties would also have to be given "Solid guarantees" regarding freedom of speech, freedom to form political parties, an independent judiciary, a free economy and respect for property, he said.

The State President's remarks, coming just over a week after the collapse of the Geneva conference on Namibia, have reinforced the view that moves to reach an internationally acceptable solution for the Territory are now firmly deadlocked.

In his speech Mr Viljoen emphasised the need for South Africa to push ahead with its plan to establish a "constellation" of southern African states to counter the "grave threats" to the sub-continent posed by Russia, Cuba and East Germany.

Referring to the new tri-racial President's Council, which is due to start sitting at the beginning of February, he said that for the first time in the history of South Africa a constitutional body had been created in which people of different races could deliberate together on the future of the country.

## Kampuchea food aid suspended

Bangkok, Jan 23.—Food distribution to Kampuchea by the so-called land bridge on the Thai border will be suspended after today because food supplies within Kampuchea are now adequate, a spokesman for the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) said here.

He added that Unicef food aid shipped directly to Phnom Penh through the port of Kompong Som had also been suspended.—Reuter.

## £5,200 paid for letter about Frank Sinatra

From Michael Leaman  
New York, Jan 23

A letter from President Reagan, in which he defends his friendship with Frank Sinatra, the singer, was sold here last night for \$12,500 (about £5,200). The auctioneer, Charles Hamilton Galleries, said it was the highest price ever paid for a letter from a president.

It is especially piquant because Mr Reagan has been criticized for his close ties with the singer, who has been under suspicion for years of having friends in organized crime. Mr Reagan's letter was a reply to a member of the public who had written questioning his relationship with Mr Sinatra.

"I'm aware of the incidents,

highly-publicized quarrels with photographers, night club scrapes etc, and admit it is a lifestyle I neither emulate nor approve," he wrote, in the two-page handwritten letter.

"However, I know of no one who has done more in the field of charity than Frank Sinatra. Mr Sinatra, who organized the variety gala on the eve of Mr Reagan's inauguration as President this week, was barred several years ago from operating casinos in Nevada because of alleged links with organized crime. He is applying to have that ban lifted."

The successful bidder for the Reagan letter was Mr Daniel Wolf, a New York collector of rare autographs.

## Iranians say they will reveal all about former hostages they think were spies

From Tony Allaway  
Tehran, Jan 23

The militants who held the 52 American hostages for more than 14 months promised tonight to reveal everything about the crisis and to talk about the continuation of the war with America.

The announcement, on an evening radio bulletin, caused speculation in diplomatic circles that the militants' statement might include a reply to allegations by former President Carter of mistreatment of the hostages.

The radio said the militants would also discuss their motives and reveal which Americans they actually believed to have been spies.

In what looks like an escalation of the growing internal storm over the hostages issue the militants also threatened to deal with "the clash of the students with the various political groups and with various types of opposition during the movement."

To the concern of Swiss diplomats who handle American affairs in Iran the radio talked of the militants' decision to hand the United States embassy to the Maragheh Foundation as "a place of residence for the cripples of the revolution and the war."

The students' statement about the handover of the compound appeared to conflict with a statement earlier this week by Mr Bezar Nabavi who was Iran's chief hostage negotiator, that the United States could eventually regain its property. Sources said that particularly towards the end of the hostages' negotiations, there were clear signs of internal struggles within the ruling structure that helped complicate the talks.

"One should not rule out the downfall of the Government as a result of this," one diplomat said. He has closely followed the hostage issue.

Earlier at the weekly prayer



Sergeant Donald Hohman, a former hostage, with his wife.

ceremony here, a Tehran politician criticized the United States for alleging that the hostages were abused.

Accusing underground political groups within the country of preparing to "poison public opinion in connection with this issue," he promised that negotiations and "talks concerning the hostage affair would soon be published," exposing these lies of America.

Waldheim reply: Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, today denied a television report that he had panicked during a trip to Iran to seek the release of the hostages.

He also vehemently rejected charges on the ABC network yesterday, that while meeting Iranian leaders, he had modified the American position on the hostages' release in relation to the creation of a United Nations investigating committee.

—Agence France-Presse.

## Blood vengeance fear over shaikh's murder

From Moshe Briliant  
Tel Aviv, Jan 23

Three brothers held in connection with the murder of Shaikh Hamed Abu Raba, a Bedu Knesset member, are the sons of Shaikh Jaber Muadi, a Druse, who took the parliamentary vacancy, police in Jerusalem said today.

Commander Yehoshua Carby, head of the investigation branch, told a press conference that the brothers were Dahesh, Seif and Haseel Muadi of Yirka village in Galilee. He said two of the brothers, a lieutenant in the Israel defence forces and a clerk, were detained in a military leap at a roadblock outside Tel Aviv a few hours after the shaikh was shot dead outside his Jerusalem hotel on January 12. The third brother was a prison warder.

Mr Carby said a court order had been obtained banning identification of the suspects because of the danger of blood vengeance, a Bedu tradition, but the court was asked to lift the ban today. After passions had cooled down the tribesmen were persuaded to rely on the murderers being brought to justice.

However Shaikh Jaber was less optimistic. A visitor to his home in Yirka overheard him shouting to someone through the telephone: "Do something or there will be blood vengeance."

## Threat to character of Catholic worship

The Vatican's teaching on sex, from divorce to birth control, from contraception to celibacy for priests, is confusing. It threatens the very character of worship in the Catholic church, says Peter Nichols in tomorrow's *Sunday Times*.

In a second extract from his new book *The Pope's Divisions*, he reports on two years' travel among cardinals and bishops, priests and lay people, from Liverpool to Lima. "Opinion is changing," he concludes. "People will no longer accept the church's disciplines on sexual teaching. And what use is there in pretending that this does not happen."

## Second invitation to British MPs from Afghanistan

Delhi, Jan 23.—Afghan insurgents today invited the three British Labour MPs who recently visited Afghanistan in invitation of the Soviet-backed Government in Kabul, to return to the country.

Mr Said Muhammad Mujahid, secretary-general of the Delhi-based Afghanistan Liberation Organisation, told reporters that the invitations had been sent today to the MPs—Mr Ronald Brown, Mr Alan Roberts and Mr Robert Litherland.

After their controversial five-day trip, the MPs said that they had seen little evidence of any Soviet presence in Afghanistan.

He introduced journalists to two former Afghan Government officials who had recently defected and are now living in Delhi.

One of the officials, a former doctor in the Afghan Health Ministry, said that 48 party activists and government officials as well as Soviet personnel had been killed by insurgents north of Kabul two weeks ago when their convoy was ambushed.—Reuter.

## Mr Trudeau takes hard line with Westminster

From John Best  
Ottawa, Jan 23

British MPs should not "question the wisdom" of the Canadian Parliament when Ottawa asked Westminster to approve the new Canadian constitution, Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, said last night.

Mr Trudeau rejected a suggestion that he or one of his Cabinet ministers should go to Britain to present the Federal Government's case in the controversy over the proposed constitutional reforms.

"It seems to me, as a Canadian head of Government, the whole point of decolonization is to establish that we really should not have to convince the British Government," he said.

Under a Canadian Government resolution now before Parliament, Westminster will be asked to legislate a Bill of Rights and constitutional amending formula for Canada, and then to surrender control over the 1867 British North America Act, still this country's basic constitution.

Mr Richard Hatfield, the premier of New Brunswick, said on his return from a visit to London this week that the federal plan was in "serious trouble" at Westminster.

Mr Hatfield said that a strong, effective opposition by the other provinces had won over many British politicians against approving the unilateral federal move. He intends to discuss the matter with Mr Trudeau next week.

Mr Trudeau told a press conference yesterday: "There would certainly be something very colorful, and announced as such, if I went over there as the Prime Minister of a sovereign country to beg their British parliamentarians to come to my side."

British parliamentarians should not now, anymore than they have in the past, question the wisdom of the Canadian Parliament when it asks them to pass a law legislating a resolution.

decline the invitation sent to him.

"At Westminster, the Canadian constitutional measure will become a Government Bill and no doubt your Government will be pleased to provide any information your group may require," Mrs Waddis wrote to Mr George Foulkes, who is joint chairman of the group of MPs studying the reform proposals.

Mr Foulkes said the MPs felt that she might have misunderstood their purpose. It was the rather than the British Government, which would be asked to consider the Canadian request for a revised constitution.

It is our feeling that members of both Houses of the United Kingdom Parliament should be given an opportunity to hear all the arguments concerning this proposal," Mr Foulkes said.

Mr Foulkes hope to hear representatives from each of the provinces... of Canada.

Mr Foulkes asked Mrs Waddis to request the Canadian Government to reconsider the refusal to address Westminster.

The Prime Minister repudiated Mr Hatfield's contention, made in London, that Canada might sever its links with the Crown or unilaterally declare independence if Britain did not pass the federal resolution.

"I cannot subscribe to these dire warnings," Mr Trudeau said, adding that Mrs Margaret Thatcher had promised him last summer that her party would take any resolution presented to her by the Canadian Parliament as a government measure in Britain and put a three-line whip on it.











## Saturday Review

## Lady in the dark

by Sheridan Morley

She may not always have been the best, but she was certainly the brightest. Others of her generation may have been better singers, better dancers, better actresses; Gertrude Lawrence was a better star. For her the Gershwins wrote *Oh Kay!* Noel Coward wrote *Private Lives* and *Tonight at 8.30*; for her, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein wrote *The King and I*.

It was Gertrude Lawrence who first sang Coward's "Somebody I'll Find You", she who made hits out of the Gershwins' "Someone to Watch Over Me" and "Do, Do, Do", she who was for Moss Hart and Kurt Weill their *Lady in the Dark*, she who sang Cole Porter's score for *Nymph Errant*. For a brief and already almost forgotten time she was the first lady of the musical comedy stage on Broadway and in the West End.

She was a bright, particular star who rose above the limitations and variations of an often eccentric talent and came to personify the brittle glamour of a post First World War generation which was hiding its disillusion under an often cynical smile. When she died, suddenly and unexpectedly of cancer in September, 1952, at the age of only 54, they dimmed all the theatre lights not only along Broadway, where she had until a few days earlier been playing Mrs Anna in *The King and I* but also all through the West End, where she had made only one postwar appearance, in a play by Daphne du Maurier.

It was a unique tribute to an actress who had started out in 1911 at Olympia as one of 150 child choristers in *The Miracle* and who was inclined to view her entire career from then onwards as something of a miracle in itself.

But by the time those theatre lights were switched back up again, most traces of Gertrude Lawrence had disappeared; she died before television had begun to preserve its artists on tape, before radio shows were regularly recorded, and though she made half a dozen films (among them *Rembrandt* and *The Glass Menagerie*) her appearances in them are mostly undistinguished and give no clear impression of a radiance which could and did hold theatre audiences spellbound.

The rag-to-riches life of Gertrude Lawrence often sounds like the script for a singularly appalling Hollywood backstage musical (and once indeed it did become just that, a film called *Star!* for which Miss Lawrence was impersonated by Julie Andrews, a lady bearing about as much resemblance to her as to Groucho Marx); an active sex life led her through two marriages and a number of affairs with the likes of Douglas Fairbanks Jr and Captain Philip Aspley, and her lifelong inability to refrain from spending money like an entire fleet of drunken sailors led her at the height of her fame into a prolonged and, for its time, highly scandalous series of bankruptcy hearings.

Not always the most brilliant selector of scripts ("Nothing that can't be fixed" was her reaction to the first offer of *Private Lives*), the only thing to be fixed will be your performance", Gertrude Lawrence yet managed to attract the most distinguished composers, lyricists, lovers, playwrights, directors and managers of her day. Her quality was to me unique and magic imperishable: "and no one, living or dead, has ever contributed quite what she contributed to my work".

Yet the Noel and Gertrude partnership existed only for a total of twelve months on stage. They played *Private Lives* for three months in London and three in New York in 1930, and six years later *Tonight at 8.30* for the same period; in their view, have been boring if not for the audiences then

certainly for themselves. All the test is memory, added perhaps by a few scratchy gramophone recordings. The potency of cheap music has proved far stronger than even they could ever have suspected.

Soon after *Tonight at 8.30* (a sequence of nine one-act plays performed in alternating sets of three) Gertrude settled in America, married for the second time and became Mrs Richard Aldrich, wife of a Broadway producer who also ran a summer theatre up on Cape Cod where they made their home.

During the war she returned briefly to Britain for troop concerts but by now, thanks largely to a succession of New York triumphs which had started in the 1920s with *Bea Lillie* in *Charles Revue*, continued with the Cowards into the 1930s and climaxed in 1942 with a showstopping appearance opposite a young Danny Kaye in *Lady in the Dark*, she was forever a Broadway baby.

After the war her career, like Coward's in England, went into a steep and sudden decline: figures who had been so flamboyantly a part of the 1930s seemed somehow lost in a post-war world which had moved on to other idols. Gertrude briefly tried her luck in Hollywood with the film of Tennessee Williams's *The Glass Menagerie*, one for which neither critics nor public much cared at the time, and turned down the chance of the Bette Davis role in *All About Eve* on the ground that it reflected unfavourably on the life of stage actresses.

Gertrude did however have one inestimable asset: both her marriage and her career may have been in trouble, but she still had Fanny Holtzmann. Miss Holtzmann (who died in 1980) was a remarkably efficient New York lawyer who also acted as Gertrude's manager, friend, agent, adviser and mother-figure, and Fanny it was who, early in 1950, had to think what to do next about Gertrude Lawrence.

This time it would be no good settling for another safe Shaw or Coward revival, no good just picking up a light comedy and hoping to run away with it. Gertrude needed something more, something very starry and above all something that she could make first and uniquely her own thing. It had, in other words, to be a premiere, and preferably a musical premiere.

The choice was a difficult one: it had been nine years since *Lady in the Dark*, and in that time a lot had happened to the Broadway musical. New producers, new composers, new dance directors had come along and none of them were thinking much about Gertrude Lawrence. Mary Martin and Ethel Merman were the big musical stars of the moment; Gertrude was associated with pre-war smaller-scale revues and toward comedies. She was not, in short, anything like first pick of the 1950 musicals.

Undaunted as ever, and at her best when faced by this sort of challenge, Fanny decided that if musicals were not coming to her post then one would simply have to be created for Gertrude and expressly commissioned for her. This fairly revolutionary idea (few actresses had ever actually commissioned a musical) would, assuming it could be made to work, have certain distinct advantages: Gertrude had not just been another hired hand, but in at the very wrapping of the package and therefore artistically and financially very much more strongly placed. It would be, whoever wrote it and who ever directed it, her musical.

By the spring of 1950 Fanny had all this worked out; what she still lacked was any idea at all as to what the show might be. Then, as it to prove that miracles did still happen, a book arrived on her desk. It was Margaret Landon's 1944 best-seller *Anna and the King of Siam*, and the William Morris office who represented the author had vague hopes that Gertrude might fancy doing it as a play. As a film, of course, it had already been done a couple of years earlier with Irene Dunne playing Anna and Rex Harrison the King.

Fanny read it gave it to Gertrude, and the two of them immediately reached the same conclusion: here was not a play but a musical. The only trouble was that somebody still had to



write it as such. Gertrude suggested Cole Porter, who seemed less than enthusiastic. Fanny Holtzmann's biographer, Edward Berkman, remembers: "Fanny hurried down Madison Avenue, the names of composer-lyricists teams whirling through her mind. Crossing 63rd Street, she found herself abreast of Dorothy Hammerstein who was hastening in the same direction. Dorothy waved a gloved hand: 'Can't talk now, Fanny. On my way to Sam's. He's got to get a sour pickle for Ockie'.

Ockie, but of course. What greater master of mellow sentiment and wry humour than Oscar Hammerstein II? And who could pour out melodies as tender as those of his partner, Richard Rodgers, with whom he had already written *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel* and *South Pacific*?

Anna and the King of Siam was hastily despatched to Rodgers and Hammerstein for an opinion. Hammerstein was immediately keen to tackle this real-life saga of the British widow who, in the 1860s, went out to Siam to tutor King Mongkut's children and ended up tutoring him too; indeed so keen was he on the whole idea of the foreign governess who eventually wins the children and the heart of a crusty despot that ten years later he wrote the whole thing all over again and called it *The Sound of Music*.

Rodgers, however, was considerably less enthusiastic at first: "We had never before written a musical specifically with one actor or actress in mind, and we were concerned that such an arrangement might not give us the freedom to write what we wanted the way we wanted. What also bothered us was that while we both admired Gertrude tremendously, we felt that her vocal range was minimal and that she had never been able to overcome an unfortunate tendency to sing flat."

But Fanny had moved fast and buzzed up the musical rights, which meant that if anybody wanted to set *Anna and the King of Siam* to music then they had to do it for Gertrude. It was as simple as that, and Fanny had gambled on it eventually proving irresistible even on those conditions to

Rodgers and Hammerstein, which indeed it did. They screened the film a couple of times, and as Rodgers later wrote:

"That did it. It was obvious that the story of an English governess who travels to Siam to become a teacher to the children of a barbaric monarch had the makings of a beautiful musical play. There was the contrast between Eastern and Western cultures; there was the imagination of the attraction between teacher and king; there was the tragic sub-plot of the doomed love between the king's Burmese wife and the Burmese emissary; there was the warmth of the relationship between Anna and her royal pupils; there was the theme of democratic teachings triumphing over autocratic rule; and lastly, there were the added features of Oriental pomp and atmosphere. Here was a project Oscar and I could really believe in, and we modified Fanny that we were ready to go to work."

*The King and I* was now under way; the Holtzmann office announced the project as a vehicle for Gertrude to open on Broadway early in 1951, which gave Rodgers and Hammerstein time to write and Gertrude herself the unknown luxury of a year off with no need to worry about what was going to happen at the end of it. From several vaguely unsatisfactory postwar months in London and Hollywood her career had taken another of its sudden lurches upwards, to the point where she was able to announce that Rodgers and Hammerstein were writing her a musical. Ethel Merman and Mary Martin had never been so lucky.

That summer of 1950 Gertrude stayed on the Cape, playing housewife and doing a couple of weeks in what was to prove her last port there. Beatrice in the comedy *Travellers' Joy*. She also spent a good deal of time that year playing weekend hostess to the Aldrich New England clan and the various actors who worked the theatre, knitting mittens for Bernard Shaw in the forlorn hope he would give her the Broadway rights to *Doctor's Dilemma* and organizing picnics for such special guests as Bea Lillie and Robert Fleming. She then took part in a cabaret at one of her husband's Harvard College reunions and even learnt to

cook, so determined was she now to prove to the Aldrich family that their boy had, not after all made too disastrous a marriage.

Back in New York that autumn, she made a few personal appearances to help *The Glass Menagerie* on its way, but her time was now increasingly being taken up with costume fittings and pre-rehearsal preparations for *The King and I*. With the start of the Korean War, Aldrich had been called back into Naval Intelligence and sent to Washington, so she was now alone again in New York and available for constant casting and other discussions on the new show.

The first idea for the King had been Rex Harrison, who had already played the part on film; but (this was six years before *My Fair Lady*) he was unenthusiastic about his chances of survival in a musical and in any case already committed to an Edinburgh Festival and London run of T. S. Eliot's *The Cocktail Party*.

The Holtzmann office also made vague overtures to Noel Coward, who was by then the most like to have played opposite; but he was not about to commit himself to a long run in somebody else's musical (he was also to turn down *My Fair Lady* in later years) and meanwhile Richard Rodgers was suggesting Alfred Drake, his *Oklahoma!* hero, who had just had another big success in *Kiss Me Kate*.

Drake, however, was willing to sign for only six months, and by now the production had already grown to the point where a run of years rather than months had to be economically envisaged. Aldrich himself had refused to take on the role of producer, sticking to his old belief in not confusing private with professional partnerships, and as a result *The King and I* was to become a Rodgers and Hammerstein presentation. The team they built for it during this autumn of 1950 was one of the greatest and most distinguished that Broadway had ever seen; though the King was still proving tricky to cast, the combination of Gertrude and Rodgers and Hammerstein (and an already tried and tested vehicle which had made money as a book and a film) meant that the

project attracted the very cream of Broadway's production talent.

Thus a young choreographer called Jerome Robbins was handling the dances, Jo Mielziner was doing the settings and lighting, Irene Sharaff was doing the costumes, Robert Russell Bennett the orchestra, and the director was to be none other than Gertrude's old playwright friend from *Behold We Live*, John van Druten, who had recently made a name for himself as a director of his own postwar successes *Ball, Book and Candle* and *I am a Camera*.

Originally, Hammerstein had hoped that Josh Logan, who had worked with him on *South Pacific*, would handle the production of *The King and I* and co-author the book; but when that offer was declined Hammerstein decided he would handle the book himself and the production then became van Druten's.

But still they had no King and they, therefore, began auditioning, since there was no other star actor to whom they could think of offering it. Richard Rodgers: "The first candidate who walked out from the wings was a bald, muscular fellow with a bony oriental face. He was dressed casually, and carried a guitar. His name, we were told, was Yul Brynner, which meant nothing to us. He scowled in our direction, sat down on the stage and crossed his legs tailor-fashion, then plunked one whacking chord on his guitar and began to howl in a strange language that no one could understand. He looked savage, he sounded savage, and there was no denying that he projected a feeling of controlled ferocity. When he read for us, we again were impressed by his authority and conviction. Oscar and I looked at each other and nodded."

Brynner's entire subsequent career can be charted in terms of his rise through the ranks of this musical: when it first opened on Broadway, Gertrude Lawrence was alone above the title and he well below. For the film, a decade later, he was above the title, but sharing the billing there with Deborah Kerr; for the Broadway and London Palladium revival two decades later still, he was alone

above the title, despite the fact that it remains fundamentally Anna's story and show.

But he was, even in 1950, not quite the unknown that Rodgers had taken him for; a former circus acrobat, Brynner had already worked with Mary Martin in a short-lived Broadway musical called *Lute Song* and was a pioneer New York television director then currently hosting his own CBS musical variety show each week, one he was reluctant to quit for the financially less secure offer of a below-the-title Broadway job. But Mary Martin urged Rodgers and Hammerstein to "kidnap him if necessary—you'll never find a better King" and eventually Brynner was persuaded to quit his television career and start rehearsing.

*The King and I* was budgeted at \$300,000, making it the most expensive Rodgers and Hammerstein musical to date, but there was no shortage of backers: Twentieth Century-Fox, who owned the film, came first for \$40,000 and other investors included Josh Logan and Mary Martin from *South Pacific*, the composers' families, Billy Rose and Leland Hayward.

Gertrude was on 10 per cent of the gross plus 5 per cent of the profits, but neither Brynner nor any of Gertrude's successors in the role in either New York or London did better than a straight salary. By the end of 1953 profits were running at over \$700,000 and that was well before the release of the film or summer-stock rights. One New York lawyer who had originally put in \$37,000 eventually took home another \$44,000, meaning that the show in its first run was to return a profit of something like 117 per cent.

The money wasn't made easily though; rehearsals got off to a bad start when Rodgers, thinking to be helpful, arranged for Gertrude to attend a piano run-through of the entire score sung by Dorena Morrow, who had been cast as Tupti, the King's Burmese wife. Gertrude refused thereafter to speak to him for the first few weeks of rehearsal, perhaps because she had taken offence at Rodgers allowing Miss Morrow to sing her songs, but more probably because it had panicked her into a realization of the demands of the score and the limitations of her own voice which were even greater than ever before. She had never tackled a show of this musical complexity of *The King and I*, which, though rightly regarded as a classic of its kind, did not give her any of the chances for lyrical jokiness which she had always discovered in Coward and Cole Porter and the Gershwins. This was closer to being an operetta, and it frightened the hell out of her.

As a result she was through-out rehearsal edgy and very difficult indeed; she knew she couldn't be, but she was deeply had she been built in to the show's construction, but she also began to think quite seriously that she had here taken on more than she could handle. As her husband, John van Druten, found himself inexperienced at musicals, and the control therefore reverted quickly to Rodgers and Hammerstein, both of whom had to admit that for all her very considerable acting graces Gertrude was not the kind of tough Mary Martin stage star they had grown accustomed to, but instead a very much more fragile and variable creature, given to moods and tantrums which identified her as a rather ghastly 1930s figure instead of a fully functioning part of the new postwar Broadway machine. She was, in short, trouble.

Her singing voice was shaky and very often flat, but Hammerstein was the first to acknowledge that she had a kind of "magic light" on stage and Rodgers had been careful to write numbers for her in a limited vocal range. "Whistle Happy Tune" "Hello Young Lovers" "Shall We Dance?" while giving his more demanding songs ("Something Wonderful" "We Kiss in a Shadow") to the professionally trained singers, Dorena Morrow and Dorothy Sarnoff.

Even so there were complaints about Gertrude's flat singing all through rehearsals, and by the time they opened the pre-Broadway tour in New Haven on February 27, 1951, they were in considerable trouble. Expectations were high, bookings were high, but the show was running for almost four hours thanks to Jerome Robbins' immensely long (though innovative) ballet for the "Hello Young Lovers" sequence. Moreover Gertrude had missed the dress rehearsal on account of laryngitis, and had already been replaced at that performance (as at so many others she was later to be) by her old friend and understudy from the *Charlot* revues Constance Carpenter, who thus became perhaps the first understudy in history to go on for a star even before the show had actually opened.

Still, they seemed to have a winner, though the *Variety* critic thought this was "not nearly such a sure thing as the earlier Rodgers-Hammerstein creations" despite the fact that Yul Brynner's performance was "stand-out chapeau" and that "Miss Lawrence, despite a recent illness that kept her away from rehearsals, sings, acts, cavorts and in general exhibits exceedingly well her several facets for entertaining". The *Philadelphia Bulletin*, however, thought that "Miss Lawrence's already thin voice is now starting to wear a great deal thinner" and this in the very first try-out week; moreover her loss of voice in the final rehearsals had already started to cause a split in the relationship between Gertrude and Fanny on one side of the fence and Rodgers and Hammerstein on the other; Gertrude wanted to delay the New Haven opening until she was feeling totally back on form. The producers wouldn't hear of it; despite her immense value to the show, the days were long gone when a single star could hold up an entire production simply by getting ill.

The health of Gertrude Lawrence was to be a constant source of worry and acrimony throughout the run of *The King and I*; but neither she, nor her husband, nor anyone involved with the show was to know that she was already dying of cancer, and her frequent indisposition was thus to have two highly contrasting interpretations. Those who viewed her took the view that for a woman of 52 to have to carry, as Anna does carry, an entire 31-hour musical during the course of which she walked four miles around the stage at every performance and wore a total of seven massively heavy costumes each weighing 75lb and complete with steel hoops which bruised her legs every time she tried to curtsy to the King, was simply asking too much of an actress brought up in a gender prewar tradition of British leading ladies.

Those who did not love her, and there were a great many of them, took the not totally irreconcilable view that she was simply past it and masking her inability to sing, and her jealousy of Brynner's success by a series of psychosomatic collapses.

In fact, Brynner's triumph was no problem at all; she had lived through all that with Danny Kaye and *Lady in the Dark* a decade before, and was genuinely delighted to have helped make them into stars just so long as they never lost sight of the fact that she had got there first. He was not a worry and nor were the collapses psychosomatic; she was beginning to be very sick indeed, though still blissfully unaware of the cause of her physical and vocal exhaustion. *The King and I*, after all, provided a perfect alibi; it was an extremely exhausting show.

It was also, on the pre-Broadway tour, a show in a constant state of change; from New Haven she had progressed to Boston where reviews were quite alarmingly unenthusiastic at first, and it was Gertrude who came up with one at least of the show-saving solutions. Between bouts of laryngitis and ill health, she still ploughed by, and another song up her high for her, Gertrude retained enough of her old-style star's instinct to realize that one of the show's first-half problems was that after "I Whistle A Happy Tune" sung as the top doctress, she then didn't have another song for a very long time.

She was after all still alone above the title, and audiences didn't expect to wait that long to realize why; what she needed was another song up her front. Rodgers agreed, and in New Haven suddenly recalled a song he'd written for the young Naval lieutenant to sing to Liat in *South Pacific*. In the event, he'd then written them "Younger Than Springtime" and abandoned this earlier effort which was still therefore unheard. It was called "Getting To Know You", and he gave it to Gertrude to sing to her Siamese children when she is first seen with them.

By the time they had got to Boston they had also put in the complete "Shall We Dance?" sequence which was to become the show's most lingering and evocative memory, and by the time they left there for Broadway, Elliott Norton was able to report, "The King and I left here with three new songs already inserted, understood Bing Crosby and other ready recording artists. Sinatra." Indeed they were; by now the show had excellent word-of-mouth reports going for it, plus a final number which as Irene Sharaff, the costume designer, noted with justification, "starred Gertrude Lawrence, Yul Brynner and a pale pink satin ball-gown."

Even the 15 Siamese children had stopped trying to flesh their hats down the toilets and all was set fair for a massive Broadway success, which was exactly what they got: "an original and beautiful excursion into the rich splendours of the Far East." thought Brooks Atkinson while Richard Watts reckoned he had seen "a show of a thousand delights with the magic of Gertrude Lawrence and a remarkably believable performance by Yul Brynner."

True there were those who argued that *Call Me Madam* and a revival of *Pal Joey*, the other main musicals of that 1951 season, were dramatically more exciting, but when it came to Tony award time *The King and I* swept the board: Gertrude, Yul Brynner, Rodgers, Hammerstein, Jo Mielziner and Irene Sharaff all won in their respective categories.

This article has been adapted from Gertrude Lawrence by Sheridan Morley, which will be published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson on February 5 at £9.95.



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Wagner Bass, Cello, Piano, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trombone,  
Trumpet, Horn, Tuba, Euphonium, Drums, Percussion, etc.  
£1, £2, £3, £4, £5, £6, £7, £8, £9, £10, £11, £12, £13, £14, £15, £16, £17, £18, £19, £20, £21, £22, £23, £24, £25, £26, £27, £28, £29, £30, £31, £32, £33, £34, £35, £36, £37, £38, £39, £40, £41, £42, £43, £44, £45, £46, £47, £48, £49, £50, £51, £52, £53, £54, £55, £56, £57, £58, £59, £60, £61, £62, £63, £64, £65, £66, £67, £68, £69, £70, £71, £72, £73, £74, £75, £76, £77, £78, £79, £80, £81, £82, £83, £84, £85, £86, £87, £88, £89, £90, £91, £92, £93, £94, £95, £96, £97, £98, £99, £100, £101, £102, £103, £104, £105, £106, £107, £108, £109, £110, £111, £112, £113, £114, £115, £116, £117, £118, £119, £120, £121, £122, £123, £124, £125, £126, £127, £128, £129, £130, £131, £132, £133, £134, £135, £136, £137, £138, £139, £140, £141, £142, £143, £144, £145, £146, £147, £148, £149, £150, £151, £152, £153, £154, £155, £156, £157, £158, £159, £160, £161, £162, £163, £164, £165, £166, £167, £168, £169, £170, £171, £172, £173, £174, £175, £176, £177, £178, £179, £180, £181, £182, £183, £184, 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## Collecting Eastern sparkle

In India, jewels seem to blossom as luxuriantly as jungle flowers; every region has its own style, every part of the body its glorious burden of gems and precious metal, intricately entwined with religion, custom and superstition, these jewels are far more than mere ornaments and their designs reach deep into the prehistoric past.

Primitive hunters decorated themselves with seeds, shells or nuts which could be hung about the body as beads and necklaces and bracelets plaited from leaves and creepers. It was only natural, when metals were discovered, for the craftsman to imitate these pleasing shapes in gold and silver and precious stones.

In south India we find necklaces of beads, coral, shells and rubies and gold. All over the country jewels are worn which represent garlands of flowers, particularly the fragrant golden champa which decorates Hindu temples. The buds of the bael from which gum arabic is made are miraculously imitated by little globes of gold bristling with tiny spicules.

As in the West, the marriage band is symbolised by jewels which vary from region to region. This is not simply a charming custom for the husband dies the widow is often cruelly deprived of her jewels. In the north she must smash her bangles and remove her nose ring.

The latter must be a considerable relief as nose rings are often of formidable size, sometimes reaching below the chin. The thali is a phallic symbol worn by brides in the Dravidian South. At its most extended the thali is a magnificent collar of gold and rubies worth £1,000 or more at today's prices; but among the Nairs of Malabar cheap tokens of affection were also presented to the child "bride" at the mock weddings which young girls had to undergo. These ceremonies were pure play acting: the bridegroom, who claimed no consanguinity, received a small fee for his trouble and departed as soon as the merry-making had subsided.

Charms and amulets are traditionally of great importance. The nauratan is a magical configuration of nine gems which might include rubies, diamonds, opal, emerald, coral, pearl, cat's eye, hessonite garnet and sapphire, each stone chosen for its specific virtues or to counteract the evil influence of a different planet. Men were just as fond of jewels as women and often wore the nauratan as a waistband, bound to the upper arm with tassels. Pilgrims wore a leaf-shaped pendant in gold with the footprints of Krishna on one side and a sacred inscription on the other. These are sometimes sold at auction and make around £100.

Earrings come in many designs: the superb kharanphul jumka is a fringed cupola hanging from a chrysanthemum-shaped surmount. Few European women could or would wear a pair in these austere times because of their size, so that it might be possible to purchase a good example quite reasonably. Bracelets, too, are often worn in pairs.

The kara is formed as a broken circle with a final of beaded heads, fantastical sea monsters or tigers with ruby tongues lolling between their jaws. In Madras the kara will be in the bright repousse work typical of the region and a vanguard of birds' heads, a vanguard of birds' heads, a vanguard of birds' heads.

The author is director of Sothby's jewelry department.

Peter Hinks



A gold bracelet from Madras (left) and a Partabgarh plaque of a lion hunt, mounted by Cartier in an art deco pendant

## Chess Winning run

In the British Chess Magazine for 1896 there is a notice that the chess editor of *The Times* is willing to do adjudications at a shilling a time which, considering the rate of inflation, is a fee worth much more than the pound or two that is the standard fee nowadays.

This predecessor of mine was a valid minor master of the late nineteenth century who played in the great Hastings international tournament of 1895. He should not be confused with his son, Sam Tinsley, who was chess correspondent of *The Times* before the Second World War and who was a much weaker player who played on a very low board for Middlesex without much distinction.

In the same issue of the BCM there was an item of news about a Paris civil tribunal awarding Mr Rosenthal (chess teacher) 15,000 francs which a certain Prince Balashov had omitted to pay him. Rosenthal was the Polish grandmaster who settled in Paris where he became ninth out of 13 in the great Paris tournament of 1867 and whose results were not a just reflection of his mastery of the game because of his ill health though he did do well at Vienna in 1873.

It is an intriguing thought that this debt may still exist between him and grandmaster Balashov of the USSR if indeed the latter is a descendant of this prince. Equally, that very talented young Soviet grandmaster Yusupov may be a relative of the Prince Yusupov who was connected with Rasputin's death.

I have taken these rather bizarre facts from a most entertaining article by the late Freddy Reilly in the December 1980 number of the *British Chess Magazine* which is the 100th December issue of that magazine. This is a unique magazine in the field of chess in that it has had a consecutive non-stop run of a hundred years.

Freddy Reilly's article gives an account of the development of the magazine over the hundred years, embellished by many similar colourful and even eccentric facts, but which could serve as a sort of picturesque romance of which the hero was and is the magazine itself. Or it could be regarded as a kind of progressive panorama of national and world chess.

In 1896, and right up to the First World War, the annual subscription was eight shillings. Now it is £9.60 and again the influence of inflation makes one realize it is cheaper now than it was in the 1890s.

During its long history it has passed through many crises; but no matter how desperate the situation has seemed it has somehow or other by the exercise of the most gallant efforts managed to survive. Way back in December 1908 the editor coined a word for chess which had to be used many times: "More subscribers, more chess" and it has always been on the side of the angels where British chess is concerned.

It has always been regarded as a serious publication but that it has also had its gay and amusing moments is amply demonstrated by Freddy Reilly's well chosen excerpts. For example, in the 1929 volume "The Adriatic Game" Brion regularly meets George Bernard Shaw for a game of chess (it is not a very good one).

As regards the credibility or otherwise of this report one can admit that Shaw was more likely to be a chess player than at a fiftieth, despite Cashel Byron's Profession.

Over rather more than 99 years of its existence the BCM has remained independent and free from any national control. Twice at least attempts have been made to join it up with the British Chess Federation. Once when the editor himself wanted such a union and once when the BCF thought it a good idea. But on both occasions this came to nothing. Nevertheless many people, especially those in other countries, persisted in regarding the

BCM as the official chess publication of the country. And, towards the end of last year, this became really true. Now the BCM and the BCF are as one and it is hoped that this union will be mutually beneficial.

No attempt whatsoever will be made to reduce the BCM to the status of a house magazine. On the contrary, every endeavour will be made to enhance and improve its national and international content.

Here in fact is a golden opportunity for us to have the best chess magazine in the world. Any and everyone who has the interests of British chess at heart should help by becoming a subscriber. The address to which to send a subscription is British Chess Magazine, 9 Market Street, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN38 0DQ.

Appropriately enough, these lines were written down at Hastings, near the home of the BCM and it was here, a few days ago, that the young Philippine grandmaster Eugenio Torre won the brilliancy prize with the following game in the last round of the ICL Grandmaster tournament.

White: Torre Black: Peters  
Q.P. Nimzoindian Defence  
1 P-Q4 N-K3 2 P-K3 Q-Q4  
3 N-Q3 B-N3 4 P-Q3 B-K2  
5 B-N2 N-K3 6 P-Q3 B-K2

Better than 6... BxN ch when White recaptures with the Knight and has an enduring advantage owing to his possession of two Bishops.  
7 P-P3 8 P-K3 9 Q-Q2  
10 P-Q4 R-K1 11 P-K3 12 P-K3 13 P-K3 14 P-K3 15 P-K3 16 P-K3 17 P-K3 18 P-K3 19 P-K3 20 P-K3 21 P-K3 22 P-K3 23 P-K3 24 P-K3 25 P-K3 26 P-K3 27 P-K3 28 P-K3 29 P-K3 30 P-K3 31 P-K3 32 P-K3 33 P-K3 34 P-K3 35 P-K3 36 P-K3 37 P-K3 38 P-K3 39 P-K3 40 P-K3 41 P-K3 42 P-K3 43 P-K3 44 P-K3 45 P-K3 46 P-K3 47 P-K3 48 P-K3 49 P-K3 50 P-K3 51 P-K3 52 P-K3 53 P-K3 54 P-K3 55 P-K3 56 P-K3 57 P-K3 58 P-K3 59 P-K3 60 P-K3 61 P-K3 62 P-K3 63 P-K3 64 P-K3 65 P-K3 66 P-K3 67 P-K3 68 P-K3 69 P-K3 70 P-K3 71 P-K3 72 P-K3 73 P-K3 74 P-K3 75 P-K3 76 P-K3 77 P-K3 78 P-K3 79 P-K3 80 P-K3 81 P-K3 82 P-K3 83 P-K3 84 P-K3 85 P-K3 86 P-K3 87 P-K3 88 P-K3 89 P-K3 90 P-K3 91 P-K3 92 P-K3 93 P-K3 94 P-K3 95 P-K3 96 P-K3 97 P-K3 98 P-K3 99 P-K3 100 P-K3 101 P-K3 102 P-K3 103 P-K3 104 P-K3 105 P-K3 106 P-K3 107 P-K3 108 P-K3 109 P-K3 110 P-K3 111 P-K3 112 P-K3 113 P-K3 114 P-K3 115 P-K3 116 P-K3 117 P-K3 118 P-K3 119 P-K3 120 P-K3 121 P-K3 122 P-K3 123 P-K3 124 P-K3 125 P-K3 126 P-K3 127 P-K3 128 P-K3 129 P-K3 130 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## Six personal views on the prospects of a party facing profound changes

## How I see the crisis in the Labour Party



Shirley Williams

## A time to fight

Up to the very last minute before today's special conference, efforts will be made to get a clear majority for 50 per cent of the vote in a leadership electoral college going to the Parliamentary Party and, alternatively, for equal one-third shares for the Parliamentary Party, the constituency parties and the trade unions. Yet the outcome of this particular struggle is beside the point. We in the gang of three have failed to get across to the party why we object to the electoral college. Our objection is based not on how the electoral college votes are shared out but in the method of voting. Mandated delegates voting at conference and union block votes cast without a ballot of members cannot be described as democratic. If a wider franchise was wanted then, as Fred Emery pointed out in *The Times* yesterday, ways of extending it democratically by secret ballot and the registration of Labour supporters in the unions, given enough time, could have been worked out.

Indeed, such a reform would have revitalized the party and the movement. But democracy was never intended. What is intended is activist control over the party and now increasingly over the Parliamentary Party. The constitutional arguments in the Labour Party must seem confusing, making it a party that controls elected representatives at every level, from Prime Minister to councillor, so that these representatives become accountable first and foremost to the party hierarchy and only secondly to the electorate. It is hard to see how that can be compatible with parliamentary democracy; it would weaken Parliament and any future Labour government at a time of great economic difficulty and of international peril.

The process began years ago with a little noticed change in 1972. Mr Ian Mikardo persuaded the National Executive to abandon its right to examine all the circumstances of any proposal by a constituency general management committee to reselect its MP. Henceforth, the national executive decided, only procedural questions could be investigated. As long as the procedure had been properly carried out, the NEC could not

The one-day Labour special rules revision conference at the Wembley Conference Centre today will discuss changes in the way in which the party elects its Leader and, it follows, the Prime Minister when the Labour Party is in office. Decisions

Arthur Scargill

## The only fair way

There will be increasing speculation about the future of the Labour Party after today's special conference on extending the franchise for electing the party leader. The real fight at the conference, however, is for the political soul of the Labour Party to determine whether it will be a real socialist party and implement the policies determined by the annual conference.

Right-wing Labour MPs have said there is a crumbling of unity within the party because of the wide-ranging reforms already introduced. It has even been suggested that the general management committees, as being unrepresentative of the party at large, are apparently forgetting or ignoring the fact that they themselves were selected by the same committees.

There was no such suggestion in the Fifties and Sixties when the party, then dominated by the right expelled left-wing members for disagreeing with policy and withdrew from the whip from a number of MPs, including the present leader, Mr Michael Foot.

There are certain sections of the Parliamentary Labour Party who are now having to accept decisions provided they agree with them but consider themselves a race apart if policies emerge from within the movement with which they disagree. The right wing of the PLP have attempted to stop every



democratic reform introduced, including mandatory reselection of MPs and the establishment of an electoral college. They have the audacity to criticize constituency general management committees as being unrepresentative of the party at large, apparently forgetting or ignoring the fact that they themselves were selected by the same committees.

The only people out of step with the party's basic aims and principles are right-wing leaders such as Mr William Rodgers, Dr David Owen and Mrs Shirley Williams and those in the party and trade union movement who support their points of view. It appears certain that the

taken today could have a profound effect on the future of the Labour Party and its prospects for regaining power. Here, six leading members of the party with widely diverging views of the crisis it faces at present set out the changes, if any, which they believe should be decided upon...

special conference will adopt an electoral college either the principle proposed by the NEC or the amendment submitted by the General and Municipal Workers' Union. Nothing could be fairer than to give the trade union movement (who gave birth to the Labour Party) the constituency parties (who keep this party together) and the Parliamentary Labour Party an equal number of votes, although in the final analysis an electoral college which gives 50 per cent of the votes to the PLP will be acceptable to the left because it will extend the franchise substantially.

More important, it will give the opportunity to both the constituency parties and to left in the trade union movement to put forward further constitutional amendments and enable the fight to continue until the NEC proposal eventually becomes accepted.

If either of these two amendments is adopted it will represent a significant victory for the left and, alongside the introduction of mandatory reselection, will mark a watershed for the party. No one should underestimate the impact of mandatory reselection. This system can and must be used to rid our party of those elements which have concealed socialist aims and blatantly ignored or disregarded the views expressed by constituency general management committees.

A number of MPs have already said that if they are now re-elected under the new procedure they will stand together and eventually stand against the official Labour candidate in the next election. This implies a form of back-mail, and people who support this view are not fit to be



Mike Thomas

## The fatal college

"It's illogical but it works" is a fair description of much of Britain's political system. Of nothing is it a truer description than of the Labour Party's constitution. Conceived in a series of debates between 1898 and 1905 and finally brought to birth in 1918, Labour's structure was carefully balanced by the founding fathers to marry the federal and monthlies (unity is strength) traditions of the trade unions with the realities of parliamentary democracy.

Who could defend in principle a party conference deciding policy in which 90 per cent of the votes are purchased in huge blocks by the trade unions; constituency parties in which, similarly, trade unions buy places for as many delegates to the decision-making general management committees as they choose; and a National Executive Committee which contains no grass roots party activists, no representatives of Labour in local government and no representatives of the Parliamentary Party as such?

What makes Labour's illogical constitution work is that a clear buffer is placed between the exigencies of a structure, originally designed to bring together the trades union and socialist societies for political action (individual membership came much later), and the Parliamentary Party and individual Labour MPs.

The buffer had three main components: on policy, Clause V of the party constitution provides that policies passed by the conference do not become part of Labour's manifesto until jointly agreed between the Parliamentary Party, representatives and the National Executive Committee.

Individual MPs were protected by the understanding that they could not and should not be under instruction from their constituency parties or under threat of losing their nomination simply because their views did not coincide with those of their general management committee.

Collectively the PLP's independence was clearly accepted; and its right to act without instruction from the conference and to elect its own leaders was unchallenged.

The party is now in the process of unbalancing that constitution so as to make it unworkable; indeed actively to damage the party's electability and capacity to govern.

Clause V survives, but is already being changed by the NEC's draft manifesto, written without even

consultation with the Parliamentary Party.

Reselection and a mood of intolerance in many constituency parties threatens the independence of individual Labour MPs and their right and duty to judge the best interests of their constituents (and of the country as a whole) without intimidation.

Collectively the PLP's rights to determine its own affairs and to elect its leader—and Britain's alternative prime minister—are to be undermined by the proposed electoral college.

Labour's founders—the trade union and socialist giants of their day—devised our constitution precisely to avoid these pitfalls. They knew that a parliamentary government in Britain should not become the subject of party dictate or the prisoner of one vested interest, the trade unions. That is why they did not simply make the party a department of the Trades Union Congress, why they built in the checks and balances, carefully preserved the rights of the PLP and of Labour MPs.

In the 1980s there is no doubt that our constitution is in need of revision. It is a scandal that the individual members of the party have so little say in how it is run. Moves to "one member, one vote" in a postal ballot for the election of our leader, in the selection of Labour candidates and in the running of constituency parties would be legitimate and democratic changes to make.

But who can honestly regard as legitimate and democratic proposals that will take effective decision-making from elected Members of Parliament and place it in the hands of a narrow band of trade union and constituency activists, who may or may not act in accordance with the wishes of the members (many of whom in the case of the unions are not Labour supporters anyway)?

It is this that makes an electoral college unacceptable and no amount of tinkering with percentages can get away from it. The central question that proponents of the electoral college fail to answer is: "Why should the British people believe that a Labour prime minister constantly looking over his shoulder at the union block vote will be able to run the country in the interests of every citizen, weighing all claims equally, giving special privilege to none?"

This special conference could irrevocably change the nature of the Labour Party. No other socialist party in the world would contemplate an electoral college of the kind proposed. It is a recipe for the demise of Labour as a national party and we should not suppose the electorate will be unaware of that.

The author is Labour MP for Newcastle Upon Tyne, East.

Lord Longford

## Why I must stay

I joined the Labour Party in 1936 after laboriously extracting myself from the Conservative Research Department, a few years earlier. After the war I served for six years in the Attlee administration, rising from Lord-in-Waiting to First Lord of the Admiralty. I was a member for three years of Sir Harold Wilson's Cabinet, resigning on an educational issue. By that time I had spoken for the Labour Party for 22 continuous years, from one front bench or the other, after a 13-year interval I would up for the party in a debate on disarmament last week.

Now we are told that there is a crisis in the party. I can not deny it. Not since 1931 have we had a situation where four much respected ex-Cabinet ministers and a number of MPs seem likely to leave the party and start a new one. I was pressed the other night for instance by two old friends and their children to say whether it is honourable for me to stay in a party trend towards a new constitution, a threat to democracy.

Put in that way I find no difficulty in disposing of the question. The special conference today is concerned on the face of it with the simple issue



of how the leader should be chosen. I cannot feel that some basic principle of democracy is violated if the leader is not chosen by the Parliamentary Party alone, though I would much prefer that the present arrangement should continue.

Other socialist parties have other methods of choosing their leader. It is not unknown to have more leaders than one. Until quite recently the Conservative Party allowed their leader to emerge in a very mysterious fashion, as Lord Butler has the best of reasons for knowing.

I shall be told, however, that the use of the block vote in this connection is indefensible. In a sense I agree. But the whole idea of the block vote is non-democratic. The Labour

constitution, as we all know, is a bit of a monstrosity, an historical accident. Yet we so-called moderates (Arthur Scargill calls us that) put up with it happily while the trades union majority agreed with us. Now their attitude has become quite unpredictable. It is a bit late in the day to start belly-aching, though if anybody has been having second thoughts about the Labour Party to adopt a completely new constitution he will render an enormous service.

We are told about sinister influences ("Commies", "Trotsky" and such like) burrowing away in the constituency parties. Certainly there were some unpleasant demonstrations at the recent party conference. I am in danger of complacency here. When I was elected to the Oxford City Council for the Copley and Ifley Ward in the late 1930s, my colleague on the ticket was a communist organizer, who was narrowly defeated. "Cryoprene" were not unknown in our party, but complacency or, alternatively, impotent rage are no substitute for dealing firmly with anti-democratic forces. I must hope and pray that democratic socialism will resist these forces more actively than in the past.

At the moment the party is becoming anti-BEC and I have always been pro-European. But this is a relatively new issue, not connected with the fundamental issues of socialism. What to my mind is the most menacing possibility that a Labour Party in office would take us out of the western defence system and turn us into a neutralist state.

That, if it ever came about, and I cannot somehow believe it will, would be a real betrayal of this country and of freedom everywhere. I will always fight it tooth and nail, with any teeth and nails left to me. Whether such a fight should be carried on inside or outside the party is for each one of us to decide in conscience.

When I joined the party I said that I had become a socialist under the influence of the Gospels. There have been many failures since, but also many fine achievements. The teachings of the Gospels has not altered, nor in my eyes their application.

The Labour Party with all its faults stands, as it has always stood, for an ideal, for the belief that all men and women are of equal significance in the sight of God and should be treated accordingly in human arrangements. Or to make use of a Christian text: "When thou givest a feast, thou shalt call the poor, the maimed, the lame and the blind, and thou shalt be blessed." Black, white, yellow and brown, all are included.

No one questions the motives, or for that matter the Christianity of those who adhere to other parties. Nor do other party proclaimers as lofty an aspiration as does the Labour Party. As long as I can continue to work within the party, for the causes and ideals I believe in, I cannot see myself leaving it.

The author was Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal from 1964-68.

For most of my life, membership of the Labour Party has seemed not merely right but natural—almost inevitable. If anyone had told me five years ago that I would now be hoping for a split in the Labour Party and the creation of a new social democratic party, I would have thought him insane as well as insulting.

Yet so it is. It is so for reasons which I do not see how the issues to be discussed at today's conference. Unquestionably, they are important issues. The changes which have been made in the Labour Party constitution are deliberately designed to strengthen the corporatist, centralist, unrepresentative and anti-democratic elements in the Labour movement at the expense of the representative, decentralist and parliamentary elements.

The trade union bureaucracies will gain power while the parliamentary party will lose it. It will be harder for individual Labour MPs to represent their constituents, and easier for their party activists to turn them into delegates. The voice



David Marquand

## Hoping for a split

I joined the Labour Party 26 years ago when I was 20. My father was a Minister in the post-war Labour government. My grandfather served for a while as a Labour county councillor. My great-grandfather joined the Independent Labour Party before there was a Labour Party to belong to, and founded the first Labour newspaper in West

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Tony Saunois

## Back to socialism

British capitalism has entered an "irreversible" decline according to a recent writer in *The Times*. In 1929-31 manufacturing industry dropped by 11 per cent; in 1980-81 it is expected to collapse by 14 per cent.

The bankruptcy of British capitalism is shown by the colossal rise in unemployment: 2.5 million or even 3 million workers will soon be on the dole.

It is the collapse of the economy and the Conservative Government's ruthless anti-working class policies—which explains the radicalization of the Labour Party, reflected in its decisions on democracy.

In the past 17 years we have had 11 years of right-wing Labour governments working within the system. Yet working people are immeasurably worse off. The right wing is responsible for the disillusionment with recent Labour governments. But it seeks to use this disillusionment to launch a new party on the very policies which led to Labour's defeat.

The right wing has lost the argument on policy and programme and is now threatening to stab the Labour movement in the back. These "democrats" are not prepared to accept majority decisions. A reported £15,000,000 "gift" from big business has been used to tempt them to form a new party.

They wanted the Labour Party to be a fan club for parliamentarians. They demand that "all party members"



should vote on the leadership and reselection of MPs. They wish to dissolve the Labour Party into "the Labour voters". This proposal would take policy-making and control over Labour's parliamentary representatives away from those who do the work and build the party.

The active Labour Party members are the ones who can determine the outcome of elections by mobilizing the inactive workers.

The right wing is attempting to rewrite history, too. It claims the left is responsible for Labour's alleged "decline". But who controlled the movement for the past 30 years?

The biggest decline in membership took place between 1954 and 1970, when 149,000 left the party. More than 10,000 have joined since the recent leftward turn.

The smallest "caucuses" are precisely those dominated by the right wing. Mr William

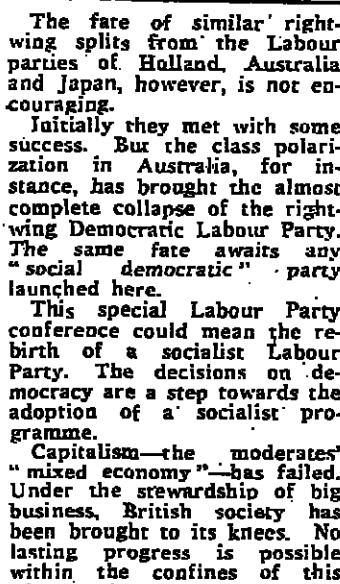
Rodgers had just 176 members in his constituency in 1977.

We are in favour of the largest element of the electoral college going to the trade unions—40 per cent. However, the proposal by the National Executive Committee that the unions, Constituency parties and the PLP should have equal one third representation would be a tremendous step forward.

The right wing has often threatened to break away, but like St Augustine—"God keep me chaste, but not just yet"—it fears the consequences.

The vicious class-war policies of the Conservative Government have resulted in an enormous class polarization in Britain. Former Conservative voters are threatening in their millions to swing over to support a left Labour Party.

The capitalists hope to avoid this by creating a "safety-net" in the form of a "social democratic" party, masquerading as the "real" Labour Party.



The fate of similar 'right-wing' splits from the Labour parties of Holland, Australia and Japan, however, is not encouraging.

Initially they met with some success. But the class polarization in Australia, for instance, has brought the almost complete collapse of the right-wing Democratic Labour Party. The same fate awaits any "social democratic" party launched by the Labour Party.

This special Labour Party conference could mean the re-birth of a socialist Labour Party. The decisions on democracy are a step towards the adoption of a socialist programme.

Capitalism—the moderates' "mixed economy"—has failed. Under the stewardship of big business, British society has been brought to its knees. No lasting progress is possible within the confines of this system.

We shall therefore be demanding that a future Labour government introduce a socialist plan of production. This would involve the taking over of the 200 monopolies which control 80-85 per cent of the British economy with minimum compensation on the basis of proven need. The plan would be run under workers' control and management.

Only a democratic socialist plan of production could ensure the full utilization of the economy, the restoration of services that have suffered from public spending cuts, increased expenditure on housing, health and education and an end to mass unemployment, poverty and want.

Such a programme would capture the imagination and support of working people. It would ensure a massive Labour majority in a general election.

The author is the Labour Party Young Socialist representative at the Labour Party NEC.























## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

## Insurance

## When the doorbell rings: my code for would-be buyers

Some years ago there came a knock on our front door and there stood a life insurance salesman from one of the newer linked-life companies keen to tell us of his wares.

It was just the opportunity I had been waiting for: here was my chance, at last, to discover just how insurance salesmen, calling cold at a house, prepared their pitch and possibly clinched the deal.

Unfortunately, I never did get a chance to find out. My husband is basically a kind-hearted man. When the telephone rang in the other room, he took the opportunity to whisper to the young salesman to be careful, because his wife not only knew about his business and his company, but also wrote about it for her living.

I am reminded of the incident by this week's publication—at least—the insurance industry's codes of conduct for those selling general and life insurance.

But I would like to suggest a code of conduct or practice for the self-interested would-be purchaser of insurance.

With these two codes the prospective policy-holder should be as well protected from the industry's fortune seekers and gold diggers as anyone could wish to be.

The code of conduct for life insurance intermediaries—all kinds of salesmen, whether they are directly employed or independent—such as solicitors or accountants—is in four parts. They are:

1. general sales principles, which cover the timing of unsolicited calls, to be at a time likely to be suitable to the prospective policy-holder; 2. identification of the salesperson, including such relevant information as to whether he is a full-time or part-time salesperson, and whether he is a full-time or part-time salesperson; 3. identification of the salesperson, including such relevant information as to whether he is a full-time or part-time salesperson, and whether he is a full-time or part-time salesperson; 4. identification of the salesperson, including such relevant information as to whether he is a full-time or part-time salesperson, and whether he is a full-time or part-time salesperson.

This heading also includes an agreement not to pass on a

prospective policy-holder's name without consent; not making inaccurate or unfair criticism of rivals; and not persuading policy-holders to cancel existing contracts.

● explanation of the contract, which involves making sure that the policy-holder "understands who he is committing himself to," pointing out restrictions, notably the effects of early discontinuance and surrender; and the variable nature of life insurance income tax relief.

● disclosure of underwriting information, provision of intermediaries influencing the proposer's answers and to ensure that they tell prospective clients the penalties for not answering correctly.

● financial aspects and signature, a provision designed to keep a proper record of all financial transactions and "forward without delay" any money received for life insurance.

Perhaps the most important feature of the whole code, which in practice goes no further than the standards already employed by life offices and their selling agents, is that the responsibility for enforcement lies fairly and squarely with the insurance companies. It is a condition of membership of the Life Offices Association that members should "enforce the code".

So you know what to do when next someone with a clipboard stops to ask you a lot of questions about savings before slipping in, almost as an afterthought, that fact that they are interested in selling you life insurance; or when some keen salesman or broker works hard to persuade you to discontinue an existing policy.

Write to the insurance company concerned, and send a copy to the Life Offices Association, Aldermley House, Queen Street, London, EC4.

But, worthwhile as the code of conduct is, I do not believe

that it gives the householder all the guidance he should have, when someone comes out of the blue to try to sell him or her a policy. Here is a code of conduct, then, for prospective policy-holders, framed as a series of questions to ask when the salesperson finally pauses for air.

● What is his name, telephone number and the organization he is representing?

● Ask about the company—in particular, its size (remember sums assured always sound much better than premium income, but it is the latter which matters more), and ranking in the United Kingdom.

● Is it a member of the Life Offices Association?

● Can he recommend any other kind of policy which might suit your needs? The industry will not like this one. But a salesperson programmed to sell only one kind of policy might miss your crucial needs.

● Push hard to find out what the insurance costs, the options—when they occur—and in particular the company's attitude to surrender values. Salesmen turn uncharacteristically quieter at this point.

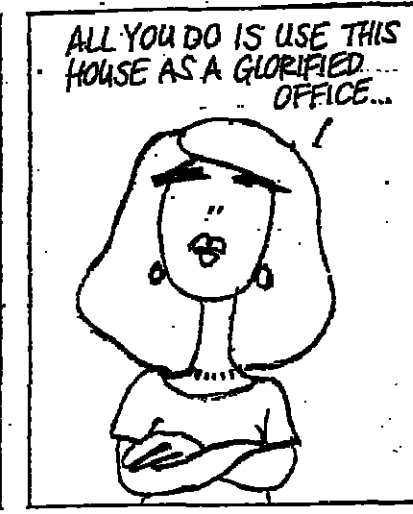
● Look at the growth projections and reject assumptions based on one growth rate only, say 15 per cent. You need a less optimistic one to balance it.

● Ask about the company's rivals. It is not an open invitation to get the salesman to get himself into trouble by knocking the competition, but it will furnish you with the names of a few other companies which you can approach and from which you can get a free quotation.

If you are interested in what is being offered, you owe it to yourself to find out more about the other opportunities in the market. Keep the salesman waiting. He needs you just as much as you need him, if not more.

Margaret Stone

## HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



## Unit trusts

## Fresh lease of life at Schroder

Schroder Unit Trust Managers will be launching a new unit trust, the Schroder European Fund, in the next week or two—its first major assault on the savings market since the group's original entry into the market in 1968.

Schroder's revitalization into a unit trust group of both substance and ambition springs from several events of 1980. The recent liberalization of the unit trust industry—in respect of charges, fund possibilities and capital gains—and the departure of Mr Ian Sampson from the Target group, now part of the RIT stable, are among them.

Mr Ian Sampson, managing director of Schroder Unit Trust Managers,

makes sense for Mr Sampson to say, "we want the new funds to reflect the strengths of Schroder's world-wide."

The timing and launch of new unit funds carries more than a hint of risk. What was a good idea several months ago, can, by the time the legal department and the Department of Trade officials have finished, be rather a marketing "has-been".

But Schroder group has been lucky with an end of January start for the American and Japanese funds and mid-February for the Gilt trust. All three should catch their markets on the right, that is the upwards, side.

Investment management will be carried out from the merchant bank and Mr Gordon Popham, the chairman of the unit trust group, is investment director at the merchant bank.

But otherwise, the revitalized group will have a considerable degree of autonomy.

This latter-day revival of the Schroder unit group is not without its advantages. For a start, the average holding in its existing funds is around £5,000. This gives the new managers plenty of leeway, in terms of administrative expenses, when it comes to buying in more funds.

Another advantage is that the relationship between Schroder Unit Trust Managers and its linked-life sister group Schroder Life, should be better than in the past. For example, the life company salesmen are being encouraged to sell units too.

MS

## Schroder unit trust in 1980

Fund	Assets	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
Capital	46.5	84.8	4th	
Income	22.8	41.7	9th	
General	34.3	65.9	20th	
Smaller Cos	52.5	—	5th	
Europe	10.6	10.3	94th	

\* Including reinvested income.

## Taxation

## Pick the right home as your 'main residence'

When you sell your main home, you may make use of a normally free of capital gains tax. This very valuable exemption is one of the principal reasons why your home is likely to be one of the best investments you can buy. However, there can be a number of complications if you own more than one property, not the least of which is—what is your main residence for tax purposes?

A main residence must be a "dwelling house". Flats and maisonettes would, of course, be included as would a large caravan, so long as the wheels have been jacked up and it is supplied with services such as electricity, gas, and water, on which the building stands—normally up to one acre—is also included in the exemption.

However, the Revenue may take the view that a larger plot is appropriate for a particular house, depending on its size and character. So, while a suburban semi is unlikely to warrant more than an acre, a country mansion could include a substantial area of parkland.

Problems can arise for people who own more than one home. By definition, it might be thought that a person could have only one main residence. But curiously enough your main residence for capital gains tax purposes may not be the same as your main residence for the purpose of mortgage interest relief. You are only eligible for capital gains tax exemptions and the mortgage interest relief on one property at a time—but as the rules differ they do not both have to be claimed on the same property.

For mortgage interest relief, the question is purely one of fact—essentially, where do you spend the greater amount of your time?

But for capital gains tax, you can choose which of your homes is to be treated as your main residence—regardless of how long you spend in each one, by writing to the Inspector of Taxes. A man and wife should each sign the election if both own the houses.

You can change the position from time to time and backdate your choice for up to two years before the notice was served. It is worth your while to make the choice. If you do not then the taxman will make the decision for you, which will not necessarily be in your best interests.

This is no academic matter. Suppose you live in the country in a house that you own outright and which is worth £100,000; you decide to spend more time in London and, instead of commuting every day into the City, you decide to buy

## Pensions

## 'Do-it-yourself' scheme

The restriction which limited the amount which the self-employed could put into pension plans with full tax relief to £3,000 a year, irrespective of their earnings, was swept away in the last Finance Act. This has theoretically given the self-employed—at least those earning £20,000-plus—more scope to save for retirement.

But how do life insurance companies persuade investors to hand over large amounts of money which they cannot touch until they retire?

The answer comes in the new contract issued by Sun Life which allows the self-employed to put over the investment decisions on their money and to take out loans against the fund.

These facilities are not new. A limited number of life insurance companies offer "one or the other", but it is the first time that they have been combined in one policy.

The idea is that a group of professional self-employed people can take out individual policies where their investment funds are pooled. They can then appoint their own investment manager—who must be a licensed dealer—and take an active part in how and where the money is invested between gilts, equities and property.

The most obvious advantage of

these schemes—also offered by Trident Life and Albany Life—is that the property used for business purposes can be held in the pension fund. This solves the problem that arises when one or two of the senior partners own the building and want to sell, in order to realize capital on retirement. The other partners can then buy it with the combined assets in the pension pool, effectively out of gross rather than net income.

Once the property is in the pension fund the rental income, which is tax-free in the hands of the pension fund, enhances the value of partners' future pensions.

On top of this Sun Life Unit Assurance also guarantees that they will buy the property at the going market rate if the fund runs into liquidity problems on the death of one of the partners when his share of the property has to be paid back to his estate.

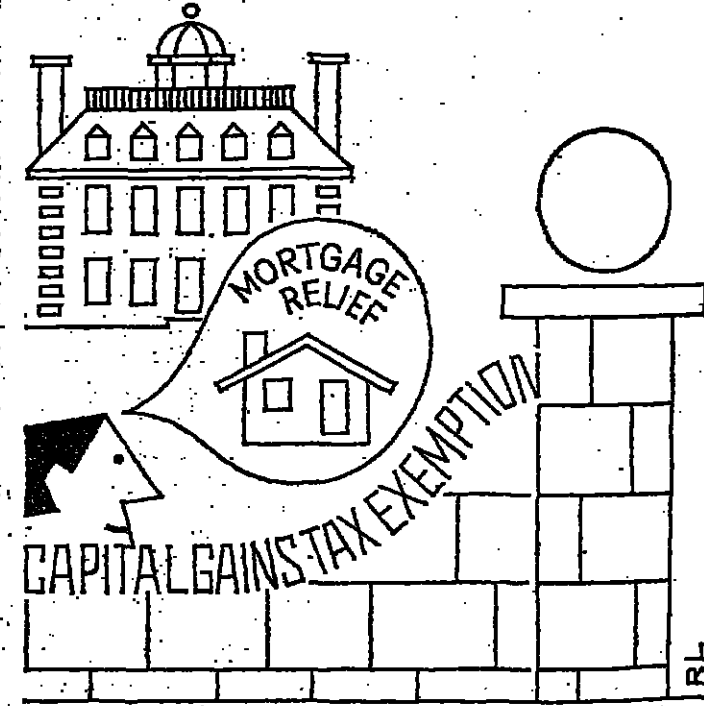
The scheme also offers loan facilities against the value of sufficient collateral is deposited either as a portfolio of stocks and shares or property. Like the plans run by Hambro Life and Vanbrugh Life it offers a tax efficient way of building up capital, in that you pay net contributions but can borrow back the gross equivalent.

For example a 50 per cent tax payer can borrow back £2,000 for each £1,000 paid in from net earnings. Loans are effectively interest-free, in that the gross interest—less a small charge—is credited to your pension scheme.

Schemes become all the more attractive if interest on a loan qualifies for tax relief—for example, working capital for the partnership or house purchase. Then you get tax relief on the interest you pay while the gross amount is credited to your pension fund. Sun Life still has to iron out the fine details of the plan but the minimum loan is likely to be £5,000. It also intends to add this facility to existing contracts which already offer the self-employed the advantage of switching between unit-linked and with-profit policies. However, the new investment facility is, of course, available only on a unit-linked basis.

Schroder Life has also recently joined this growing list of life insurance companies taking a more flexible approach by adapting its policy to allow loans; but, like Hambro, it will accept only property as collateral against the loan. The minimum loan is £5,000.

Sylvia Morris



## Investor's week

## Market takes the bad news in its stride

Five days of advance, two of retreat, the FT index crawling from 451.9 to 453.7, brokers blaming the Budget on March 10 for lack of business. That was the week that was. It is over—let it go.

Make money by betting against the crowd, cry some; fine, as long as you get your timing right and how can you do that if you cannot detect a trend?

And there is no doubt that the stock market, along with the Chancellor, is going into purdah. Brokers understandably disapprove of this; just like publicans saloon bar television. Television makes customers gape, not drink, and budgets induce clients to talk, not buy or sell.

But it is the men of action, not the men of talk, that we should be watching. The second group evidently discuss the Budget, forgetting that, often as not, they have less influence on markets than chancellors imagine. But the first group, by contrast, may have discovered something. With remarkable rapidity we are becoming steered towards a dividendless and mutilated profits or losses that go with them.

Consider: we had Gestetner, which has had a tough time switching from duplicators to photocopiers. It recently claimed that it was being "crucified by the strength of sterling". A poor year to November 1 was feared accordingly, but the market hailed the fall from £19.3m to £16.2m in pre-tax

## MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Rises				
Year's high	Year's low	Company	Change	Comment
172p	115p	AGB Research	8p to 22p	Int pit 22 pc up
243p	115p	Davis (Godfrey)	12p to 16p	Monopos Comm clears
84p	58p	Gestetner	11p to 77p	Yr's figs a relief
254p	130p	Sun Life	16p to 254p	Brokers circe
207p	132p	Trusthouse F	9p to 197p	Yr's figs better than feared
Falls				
385p	210p	Akroyd & Smith's	25p to 305p	Possible new Govt funding methods
152p	104p	House of Fraser	5p to 121p	Fading bid hopes
402p	190p	Veresk	4p to 33p	Georgia Pacific bid
264p	166p	Lucas Ind	8p to 284p	Dividend cut
			18p to 158p	Redundancies

profits and the maintained dividend.

The shares jumped with delight, as brokers pointed to the 10 per cent yield and asset value of 230p a share. The point is not whether 10 per cent yields are uncommon or not (they are, in fact, as common as garden weeds), but that investors are sighing with relief at the least excuse.

Benly's big BL motor distributor was even more remarkable. In its year to last September the group slid from profits of £4.3m into losses of £87,000 and the final dividend was more than halved. Relief claimed that it was being "crucified by the strength of sterling". A poor year to November 1 was feared accordingly, but the market hailed the fall from £19.3m to £16.2m in pre-tax

Rank Organisation had a full year drop in profits of 15 per cent to £11.2m, but once again, the market sighed cheerfully, remembering that Rank had to cope with sterling strength and non-recurring losses (the cost of getting out of television set deal film-making). Here again the dividend was maintained.

Finally, the market contemplated the agony of Tate & Lyle's streamlining with equanimity.

The market preferred to dwell on other things. It decided that Tate had paved the way for a strong recovery in profits and noted that the dividend was kept at 1.5p a share.

Peter Wainwright

## The new Tyndall &amp; Co. Money Fund—14% on deposit and write your own cheques

Now, with the new Tyndall & Co. Money Fund you can benefit from really top rates for deposits—and still keep your funds immediately accessible.

What makes the Tyndall & Co. Money Fund so special for the private investor, is the unique cheque book facility. You can withdraw all or part of your deposit simply by writing a cheque.

All you need to open a Money Fund Account is a minimum sum of £2,500. As a depositor you benefit from the higher money market rates through the pooling of funds. Your money is invested only with major banks and selected local authorities.

Interest is credited to your account quarterly, without deduction of tax. There are no charges.

\*Current rate. Rate published daily in the Financial Times.

Please send me full details of the Tyndall & Co. Money Fund.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tyndall & Co. 29/31 Princess Victoria Street, Bristol BS8 4DF

Telephone: Bristol (0272) 32241.

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Licensed by the Bank of England to take Deposits.

## Life assurance

## The wrong side of fifty?

If you are the wrong side of 50, it is quite possible that you have been offered a life insurance through the post. Thousands of them are going out (many through the insurance subsidiary of the Automobile Association). If you have not had one yet, it may come.

Or you may have seen one of the large advertisements in the national press and wondered whether there was some catch.

A lot of older people are buying life cover in this way, making it worth while for the few companies taking on such business to keep going. They are getting in the business at a satisfactory rate—although it is still a little too early to be sure that people will live long enough to provide a worthwhile profit.

Many people seem to be signing up on an impulse—partly because, unlike so much life assurance, there is not a long and detailed medical questionnaire, nor is a medical examination required.

Under one scheme, you will be asked four questions:

Have you been an in-patient or out-patient in hospital during the past five years?

Are you currently receiving any kind of treatment (including drugs)?

Has any other life office quoted increased terms for life assurance for you?

Have you been incapacitated for more than two weeks during the preceding five years?

If you can truthfully say "No" to all those questions, the cover can be yours, without more ado. But now I have a question for myself.

Is it something you really need? Or would you be buying it mainly because it appears to be a special offer, and there is no fuss or bother?

There are some points to ponder. Be wary of a scheme where, should you die within, say, a couple of years, only a modest benefit will be paid. There is no reason why you should run the risk with the insurance company. There are, after all, schemes where the full cover comes into force immediately.

These types of policy are normally non-profit whole life assurance, and are the most profitable types of policy for a life office. You pay a fixed premium and, at your death, a benefit, which is fixed at the outset, will be paid out.

Since this is on a non-profit basis, even if the life office has a highly successful run with its investments, you will not share in those profits.

Finally, there is the small matter of the premium you pay. Under this type of special scheme, you are saved the bother and inconvenience of a long questionnaire and a possible medical examination which could result in your being unacceptable at normal rates of

premium. You have to pay for that convenience.

In other words, the premiums are not lower than those which you would be charged if you completed the questionnaire, underwent a medical examination (if necessary), and came through with flying colours.

On the other hand, with such limited information being provided, some people are bound to get the cover when, under normal procedures, they might have had to pay increased premiums.

If you are over the age of 50, and genuinely want life cover, it could be better to consult a good insurance broker. You will be able to tailor a policy to meet your particular needs.

It could work out cheaper than the offer through the post, or advertised in the press. But it will mean that you will have to be much more forthcoming as far as medical evidence is concerned. It is up to you to take the choice.

Incidentally, if you do decide to go in for a special offer because of the ease and lack of formality, but find that you are not eligible because of one or more of the answers which you give, don't feel that you are uninsurable. If you really want the cover, a broker may well be able to fix you up, at a price—unless you have just had, for example, a heart transplant.

John Drummond







## Commodities

[illegible]

# Shortfall in Soviet harvests

## Discount market

The Bank of England provided this help via purchases of a small number of local authority bills and a moderate quantity of eligible bank bills.

## Foreign exchange report

The dollar made fresh headway against all but the pounds on foreign exchange markets. Last night's sharp gains by the dollar in response to Mr Henry Kaufman's forecast of record U.S. interest rates later this year, were extended as the eurodollar rates advanced.

The pound, however, remained underpinned by the UK's high interest rates and by the prospect of recycled Iranian funds.

## report

At the close, sterling was 37 points better against the dollar at 2.4070.

The effective exchange rate index was unchanged at 80.3, after 80.3 at midday and 80.2 at the opening.

Continental currencies to lose ground to the dollar included the German mark, down from 2.0242 to 2.0317, the Swiss franc, down from 1.8345 to 1.8395, and the French franc, down from 4.6750 to 4.6935.

## Wall Street

New York, Jan. 23.—Prices on the New York Stock Exchange closed narrowly lower as the NYSE index eased 0.04, to 74.7, and the average price per share one cent.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 0.25 to 940.19, bridging its fall for the week to 33.10. Declines led advances 775 to 683 as volume fell slightly to 37,220,000 shares from 39,890,000 yesterday.

## Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range)	Market rates (close)	
January 23	January 23		3 months
New York	\$2,050-2,120	\$2,151.25	2.70-2.75
Montreal	\$2,850-2,930	\$2,862-2,950	1.80-2.20
Amsterdam	5.29-5.31	5.31-5.31	65-67.50
Frankfurt	12.94-13.00	12.94-13.00	65-67.50
Copenhagen	14.94-15.00	15.00-15.00	15-20.00
Dublin	1.3100-31.45	1.3130-31.60	30-100
Frankfurt	129.40-130.00	129.40-130.00	24-160 prem
London	134.00-135.00	134.00-135.00	24-160 prem
Madrid	134.00-135.00	134.70-80	25-25 disc
Milan	233.1-235.0	233.1-235.0	10-100
Paris	11.24-11.25	11.24-11.25	15-100
Stockholm	10.75-10.80	10.75-78.75	15-100
Vienna	34.56-35.00	34.53-35.00	15-100 prem
Zurich	4.40-4.41	4.42-4.43	34-36 prem

Effective exchange rate compared to December 21, 1971, was up 0.1% to 89.4%

## Other Markets

Australia	2.0320-2.0470
Bahrain	0.9050-0.9080
Finland	9.3870-9.4270
Greece	114.85-114.85
Hongkong	12.4860-12.5280
Iran	not available
Kuwait	0.6515-0.6545
Malaysia	5.3410-5.3710
Mexico	55.30-56.50
New Zealand	2.4925-2.5125
Saudi Arabia	7.9965-8.0285
Singapore	4.9835-5.0135
South Africa	1.7975-1.8125

## Indices

	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Changes
Sterling	80.4	+23.7
US dollar	87.3	+6.8
Canadian dollar	79.8	+21.5
Schilling	145.3	+21.7
Belgian franc	110.7	+10.4
Danish kroner	100.4	+6.4
Deutsche mark	144.3	+33.7
Swiss franc	135.1	+73.4
Guilder	121.1	+13.9
French franc	85.6	+3.0
Lira	49.7	+33.0
Yen	146.3	+43.1

Based on trade weighted changes  
from Washington agreement  
December 1971.  
(Bank of England Index 100).

## Dollar Spot Rates

Ireland	1.8386-1.8410	(B)
Italy	1.1900-1.1905	(B)
Netherlands	-2.5050-2.5080	(B)
Denmark	30.30-30.60	(C)
West Germany	6.2230-6.2280	(C)
France	2.0310-2.0325	(W)
Switzerland	54.05-54.20	
Austria	80.90-81.00	
Belgium	963-25-964.25	(B)
Spain	3.2628-3.2670	(B)
Portugal	4.8820-4.8850	(B)
Greece	4.4720-4.4770	(B)
Sweden	202.50-207.70	(P)
Finland	14.34-14.36	(P)
Norway	14.34-14.36	(P)
Netherlands	1.8385-1.8405	(B)
All amounts quoted in US currency.		
Ireland	\$1. : US \$0.8394-0.8397	(B)

## Money Market

# ates

Bank of England MLR 14%  
 (changed 24/11/88)  
 Foreign Banks Base Rate 14%  
 6 month Mkt. Loans %  
 Lend Lease High 15 Low 14  
 Risk Fixed 14-13%

Treasury Bills (Dis%)		
	Selling	
on the 12 <sup>th</sup> mo	2 months	13%
on the 12 <sup>th</sup> mo	3 months	13%

Bank Bills (Dis%)		Trades (Dis%)	
on the 13 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>	3 months	14	
on the 13 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>	4 months	15%	
on the 13 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>	6 months	13%	
on the 12 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>			

## US commodities

SILVER futures trimmed losses to 23 cents at the close on back squaring after plummeting 40 cents to seven-month low. The nearby March delivery settled at \$14.57 1/2 ounce. Jan. 1453.00c; Feb. 1458.60c; March 1453.00c-1460.00c; May 1503.00c; July 1545.00c; Sept. 1580.00c; Dec. 1648.50c; Jan. 1669.50c; March 1771.50c; May 1763.50c; July 1795.50c; Sept. 1837.50c.

GOLD futures were: CHICAGO (PM),

## EMS Currency Rates

	ECU currency central rates	% change from central	% change adjusted <sup>a</sup>	divergence limit <sup>b</sup>
Belgian franc	39.7897	41.5498	+4.62	1.53
Danish krone	7.2726	7.9035	-0.86	1.64
German D-mark	2.48206	2.58513	+4.16	1.126
French franc	6.55957	6.9363	-3.22	1.36
Dutch guilder	3.77432	3.29843	-1.40	1.512
Italian lira	0.666369	0.69363	-4.08	1.066
Italian lira	1.37149	1.22615	-10.28	4.08

<sup>a</sup> + changes are for the ECU therefore positive change denotes wider currency.

<sup>b</sup> adjusted for sterling's weight in the ECU, and for the lira's wider divergence limits.

Adjustment calculated by the Times.

## Euro-\$ Deposits

(%) calls, 18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-20<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>; seven days, 18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-19<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>; one month, 20<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-20<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>; three months, 18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>; six months, 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. Gold fixed: am, \$352 (an ounce); pm, \$353 close, \$352.50. Kruggerand (per coin): 3368-370 (\$235.75-236.75). Sovereigns (new): \$140-142 (\$58-59).

## Gold

Ad. fixed: am. \$552 (an duncer: Ap  
1. \$553 close. \$552.50. Bl  
ugarrand (per coin): 3368-370 La  
35.75-236.75). Av  
verelgns (new): 3140-142 (£58-59). Ne

## Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

[illegible]



ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, Feb 6.  $\S$  Contango Day, Feb 9. Settlement Day, Feb 16  
 $\S$  Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]



■ The trouble with exercise is that it is always advocated by energetic, naturally thin people who can't keep still and try to punish the rest of us because they are totally unable to relax. They stride about like replays of Barbara Woodhouse, cheerfully shouting "Walkies" in the sort of weather that would make any self-respecting animal curl up and hibernate. Exercise, they shriek merrily, is fun.

Don't believe a word of it. Exercise is a bore and a chore

and the people who really need it are the least likely to stick to it. People who enjoy it have no need to be told what to do. People who don't, won't. But being among the sloths, I have discovered that a few simple exercises done regularly—and without any broom handles, chairs and other props—are worth more than an ambitious body-programme which is likely to be abandoned the first time the alarm fails to go off.

For those who are really serious about being fit and want the type of exercise that


tion Council (Look after Yourself), PO Box 1, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 6SL.

For those who prefer to listen rather than read, I asked one of Martha Hill's three experts in beauty and exercise, Alexandra, to devise a simple routine for both men and women, which, done regularly, will help to keep you supple and redistribute the fat. Combined with a little bit of exercise, away inches, too. As so many people suffer with back pain they have been chosen specially to avoid any strain.

Remember to breathe deeply

Next week she will be 70 and apart from the unfair advantage of being remarkably good looking, she still has a skin which radiates the sort of health and vitality that a 30-year-old would envy.

In spite of a jetset life—at one time she had a private aeroplane and two Rolls-Royces—



are light and non-greasy and make the skin feel supple and unclogged. They are as suitable for greasy skins as for dry, as you just use as much or as little as your skin seems to need.

My skin, which is dry and fair, used up the four products in exactly 13 weeks which, at £8.50 for the complete pack,



Photograph by Peter Akehurst

After winter's dark colours cream is the colour of hope, of extravagance, of luxury—it instantly spells Spring. The permanently pleated pure wool skirt is fully lined and comes in caramel, too, if you want to be more practical, £57. The striped cotton shirt, £42, and mohair and acrylic cardigan, £55 are also in cream with caramel. All in sizes 10 to 16, by Escada at Simpson, Piccadilly.

■ Having once spent a fortnight at a health farm and returned to the city, I was, by the middle of the first week by the unending boredom of the concentration on the body beautiful and the inability of any of my co-slimmers to talk of anything but food, I am not about to recommend such agony to anyone. The only health farm I all rolled into one that's something else.

You can find it in the centre of London at The Sanctuary, tucked away at the back of the Covent Garden at 412 Floral Street. One of the attractions is that you can call in any time you happen to feel like it—no planning ahead or making and breaking appointments. They are open from 9 am to 10 pm and you can spend as much or as little time there as you need to feel pampered.

If you just for one day will be a minimum of £10.

can use the jacuzzi (water jets break down calcium deposits), the solarium, the sauna and the swimming pool. Towels and lockers with keys are provided and there are facilities to wash and dry your hair. Drinks are available for purchase from 65p each, will make sure you don't undo the good work at one sitting. There is also a range of facial and body beauty treatments from £25.

You could cross paths with Lesley-Ann Down or Felicity Kendall or one of the many other showbiz personalities who use the Dance Centre next door. But if you're not a fan, you'll be disappointed. The place is not what it seems, but found himself trapped in the sauna by a crowd of admirers and had to be wrapped up and sent home before anyone could get through the doors. Since then, the Sanctuary has become a strictly seamy-guys-and-no such unseemly undergraduate behaviour ever

**I**n Whatever effort you put in on your looks will be rewarded if your mind is flabby, so why not consider a residential short course this year? There are residential centres in colleges, universities and even converted country houses, offering courses lasting from two days to six weeks and beginning in April. Most are for adults, some offer a mix of age groups, however, and some are open to families with children. Fees start at £18 per weekend inclusive.

Part of the problem of adult evening classes is the drop-out level once the novelty wears off at the cold January term makes it difficult to stick to it. To self-expression by your own fireside with a glass in your hand than in a kindergarten classroom wielding paintbrush or spanner.

So how could you fail to sustain enthusiasm when the location for your study of *The*

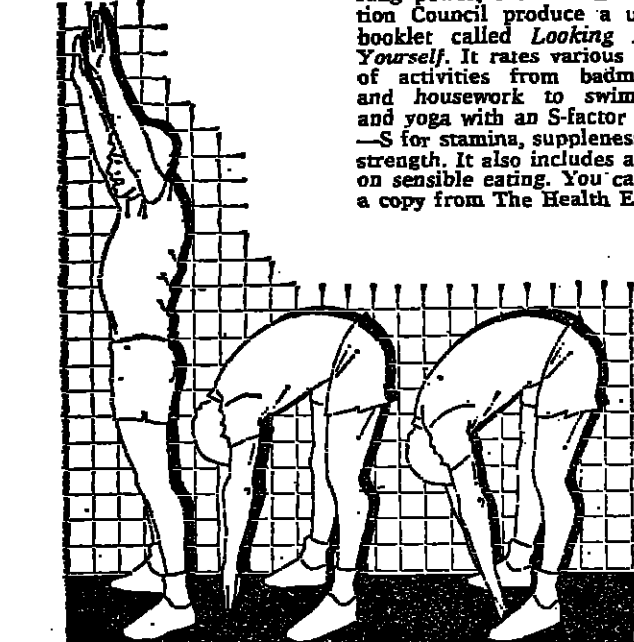
*Dream of Gerontius* is Snow-drawn or when you can spend two days learning about the badger in Shrewsbury, calligraphy in Somerset, paranormal phenomena at Missenden Abbey.

The brochure alone is a delight. It is available from the National Institute of Adult Education, 15b De Montfort Street, Leicester LE1 7GE, costs 75p including postage and is worth every penny. The idiosyncrasy of Chinese brush painting in Stroud has an interesting improbability factor and Spoken Russian in Wellingborough is a new kind of vicinity of vodka from Warrington.

Some colleges run several courses at once—imagine the interesting cross fertilization of ideas that might come about from the casual encounter of students of The Art of Henry VIII and those of The Nassty Niners.

themselves at Theydon Bois in Essex one weekend in May. Cambridge University is the fortnight's study of the Flowers of Andalusia, which very properly takes place right there in Spain—but the Weekend is a bit of a *Lebenslied*. *Lebenslied* is the title of the book. *Lebenslied* is the title of the book. *Lebenslied* is the title of the book.


Altogether a most stimulating booklet. You might even be inspired, as I was, to start a course of your own. Having just had an estimate for painting my house, I am particularly attracted by the idea of a course called a "Help Yourself Painting Week at Barford in the Cotswolds." It is a week that is welcome to join the course I plan to run in nearby Stratford-upon-Avon. Brushes and paint are provided. List of optional extras available. Bring



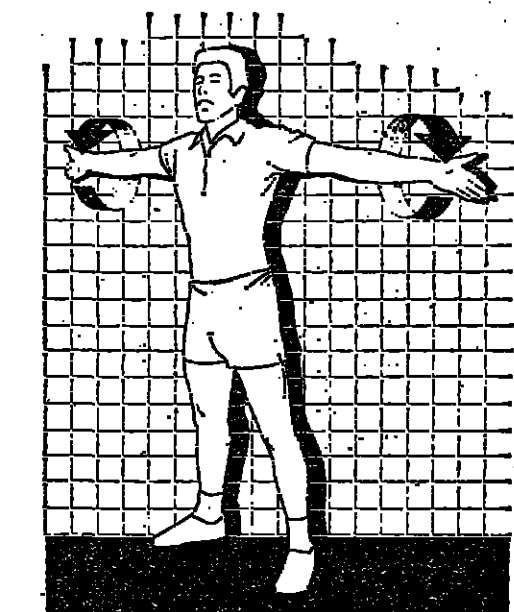
1 (above) Warming up. This is important, so don't skip it. Hands above head, feet apart. Bend and touch in front of the toes, then between them. Women repeat ten times, men 20. Don't worry if you can't reach the floor at first. Practice will make you more flexible.

through the mouth five times—it helps you to relax. Try these exercises for two weeks and if there is one you really hate, drop it. If you don't like it, you won't keep it up and regularity is the most important factor. Continue to do the ones you like every morning and you will find they do work.

**4 Abdomen and front of thighs.** Lie on your back with your knees bent and feet flat on the floor. Place your hands on the floor on either side of your knees. Lift your hips and buttocks off the floor, forming a bridge with your back. Hold this position for 10 seconds.



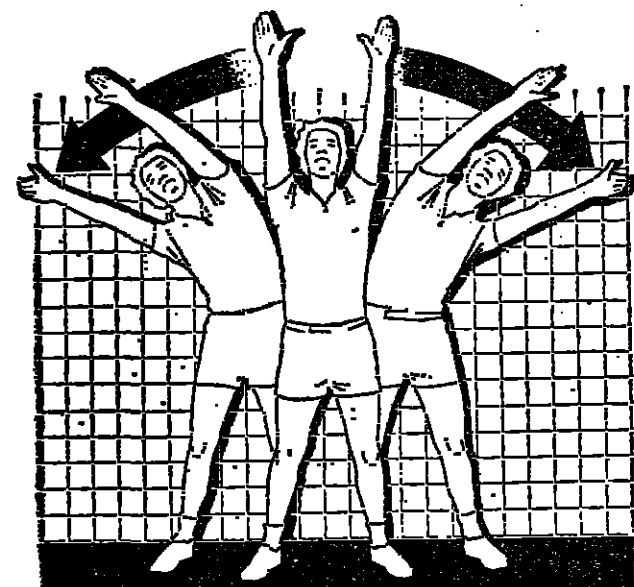
lie on the floor, feet together. If you cannot raise sides, if not, place them under the feet. raise feet three inches from floor. count of six (men ten). Repeat



**Illustrations by Duncan Mil**



5 (a) Women only—bottom and hips. Sit on floor, ankles crossed. Lifting right arm above head, bend to the left keeping knees straight and rolling over until upper knee touches floor. Repeat to right. Ten times each way. Cross ankles other way and repeat.



**3 Waist.** Feet apart, hands above head. Bend sideways to the left, keeping arms parallel. Give a little push towards the floor, feeling the waist stretch, before returning to upright position. Repeat to the right. Ten times for women, 20 for men.

■ It is, of course, impossible these days to talk about giving your backyard a respray and not see your system an oil change without mentioning diet. I don't propose to mention weight loss — for that watch this space for a report on a new food substitute I have been trying — but I do think the amount of talk about bread and potatoes is a little unnecessary, confusing. Diet recommendations fluctuate with fashion. At the moment nutritionists, who 20 years ago were warning us off bread and potatoes, are now giving the impression that if we don't have a little bread and butter, like a help salad, we will at least be under par, if not actually expiring.

is too much? Apparently the Health Education Council is just beginning to realize the necessity for such a plan and has formed a subcommittee to devise one, but it is going to take a year to produce. Why? Have the computers got indigestion?

— In the meantime, though, you may care to take note of the advice given in one of the most useful and understandable introductions to healthy eating—a booklet written by Jenny Salmon for Sainsbury's called *Balancing Your Diet*. In it she lists the following recommendations from which you can work out your own menus:

- One portion per day of lean meat, fish or poultry, plus up

double vision, for which there is no cure. In other cases where the degraded pupil has become white a normal appearance can be restored by the use of black lenses painted with a black centre.

The cost of such lenses, if not prescribed on the National Health, is high. The most expensive, at around £200 each, including fitting, are used on badly scarred eyes and consist of two layers of soft lens material with a coloured layer between, specially handpainted to reproduce the eye as it was.

A similar method, in which the colour is applied in a series of dots like a photographic print, is used to intensify or

The extra cost of colour is not unduly high, adding about £15 per lens to the fee, which varies from practitioner to practitioner and largely depends on the amount of time and material fitting, which is about half the total cost. Clear soft lenses range from £75 to about £180 a pair including fitting, hard ones from £65 to £120. Be wary of cutprice offers. The quality of the lenses will be the same, but the amount of time and care given to fitting and instruction on use and care may not.

The shade you choose depends largely on the effect you hope for, and I suggest

For those whose eyes water at the very thought of poking what seems like a window pane into them, soft lenses feel much less like foreign bodies. I have found the greater comfort well worth the increased cost, even though they are likely to last only about three years, with care. They are not suitable for astigmatic patients, but the alternative to hard lenses for them are the newer oxygen permeable one, a sort of cross between the two.

The extended wear lens, which is kept in the eye all the time and is removed only occasionally, is also available.

pure wool skirt is fully lined and comes in caramel, too; if you want to be more practical, £57. The striped cotton shirt, £42, and mohair and acrylic cardigan, £55 are also in cream with caramel. All in sizes 10 to 16, by Escada at Simpson, Piccadilly.

thing out good, I am not about to recommend such agony to anyone else. But a mini-farm all rolled into one day that's something else.

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The cost of your day will be a minimum of £10. For this you

don't undo the good work at one sitting. There is also a range of facial and body beauty treatments from £5.50.

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lege. London (the actual word he used doesn't look good in my opinion) is a very nice city. Very few people in this country have any nutritional deficiencies — anemia in some women is one of the few examples. Our main problems are heart disease and obesity — all caused by excessive meat, not shortages."

So why doesn't someone produce a nice, simple eating plan that will provide all the vitamins, minerals and protein we need? It's not good enough to say eat your balance and eat a lot of veggie and the only alternative is a whole series of complicated charts. Don't tell me that I need 30g of vitamin C a day — just tell me that a glass of orange juice or a grapefruit will give me all I need.

And so on, and so on—how much, how many, bread is enough, how much roast beef

minerals and iron.

Three portions a day of skimmed milk, cottage cheese or low fat yogurt. This gives calcium, protein, vitamins A and D.

Three portions a day of fruit and vegetables provides starch and vitamin C.

Three portions a day of wholemeal cereal, bread, pasta and rice. These provide starch, protein, B vitamins, iron and calcium.

Keep butter to 1 oz to 1 oz a day and use as little oil, lard, cream and sugar as possible. White sugar contains no vitamins, minerals, protein or dietary fibre—just calories.

The booklet is available at 30p from branches of Sainsbury, and you can also get it, for an extra 14p and p, from The Press Office, Sainsbury Ltd, Stamford House, Stamford Street, London SE1.

■ **Our SwapShop competition** (December 20) made one thing quite clear—even though we are all aware that prices have soared in recent years, few of us are aware of the extent of the increases. Hundreds of you tried your hand—thank you for joining in the fun—but most of you wildly underestimated the cost of our shopping lists.

■ You don't expect anyone to be absolutely right, so I gave you all 10 per cent leeway either side and the best entry—nine correct answers—came from Mrs J. H. Leigh of Tixall, Staffordshire. Congratulations.

■ Runners-up were Mrs Winchcombe, Andover, Hampshire; Mrs J. C. Bell, West Dulwich; Mrs J. Edwards, Crowthorne; Mrs J. B. Bennett, Bournemouth; Mrs J. Bennett, Blackheath; and Mr Patrick Flynn, Knebworth, Hertfordshire. I hope you all enjoyed your champagne prizes.

darker later, if you prefer. You  
 can have a slightly darker  
 shade of the same colour, or  
 a shade which will blend with  
 your own to produce a com-  
 pletely individual colour, or  
 you can choose something  
 dramatically different and  
 surprise all your friends.

You may surprise yourself,  
 too, if you find lack of  
 observation. The first day I  
 was fitted with my new lenses I  
 felt sure I was as obvious as the  
 green eyed yellow idol to the  
 north of you know where, yet  
 only one colleague in the office  
 noticed the difference, and a  
 day or so later he was so  
 busy explaining that "it's all in  
 the eyes", nevertheless gazed  
 unseeing into my emerald  
 orbs and went back to con-  
 templating the more moving col-  
 our of his Guinness.

Maybe the rather strong-  
 green reminded him of stag-

patients, but also for babies and old people who are for one reason or another unable to handle the camera. Kennedy is dismissive of their own "cosmically" "see absolutely no reason for them, except laziness", he says. "The most important aspect of contact lenses is keeping them clean. These are slovenly people about something that is in their eyes, they can expect problems. If they take care, there should be none."

To those of us who are myopic and for whom the day dawns out of focus a lens which is permanently in place does have a certain appeal—at least it did for me until I read what a professor in America had done. He fitted turkeys with blue-coloured contact lenses and found that the birds were more energetic, more productive and fatter. I can't think of a fete I should like less.

■ Whatever effort you put in on your looks will be wasted on the level of involvement. Why not consider a residential school for this year? There are residential centres in colleges, universities and converted country houses, offering courses for 10 to 30 days to six weeks and beginning in April. Most are for adults, some offer facilities for disabled students and some are open to families with children. Fees start at £18 per weekend inclusive.

Part of the problem of adult evening classes is the drop-out rate. Level of involvement is low and the colder January term makes you feel you are closer to self-expression by your own fireside with a glass in your hand than in a kindergarten classroom, yielding painbrush or spanner.

But could you fail to sustain enthusiasm when the location for your study of *The*

Dream of Gerontius is Snow-don't, or when you can spend days learning about the badger, the St. Albans, calligraphy in Somerset, parunorm phenomena at Missenden Abbey?

The brochure alone is a delight. It is available from the National Institute of Adult Education, 19b De Montfort Street, Leicester LE1 7GE. £7.5p including postage and is worth every penny. The idea of Chinese brush painting in Stroud has an interesting impossibility factor and Spoken Russian in Wellingborough smacks distinctly of vodka from Warrington.

Some colleges run several courses at once—imagine the interesting cross fertilization of ideas that might come about from the casual encounter of students of The Art of Henry VIII and those of The Naszy Ninety.

themselves at Theydon Bois in Essex one weekend in May. Consider the delights of a fortnight's study of the Flower and the Antelope, the two temperate place right there in Spain—but Le Weekend Français in Abergegnwy? L'esprit boggles.

Altogether a most stimulating book. You might even be inspired to take, to start a course of your own. Having just had an estimate for painting the outside of my house—a sum which, only 20 years ago, would have bought a roomy semi—I am particularly attracted by the idea of a "Painting Week at Barford in May. Anyone who can't get into that is welcome to join the course I plan to run in nearby Sratford-upon-Avon. Brushes and tape provided. List of optional extras available. Bring







